



2015

Steps to Success 2015-2016

Hart Career Center, Illinois Wesleyan University

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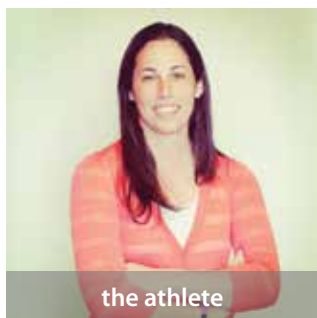
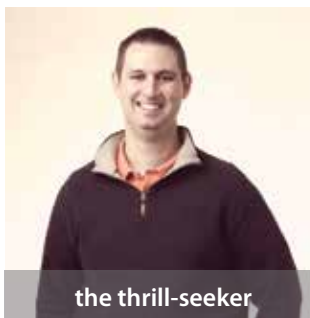
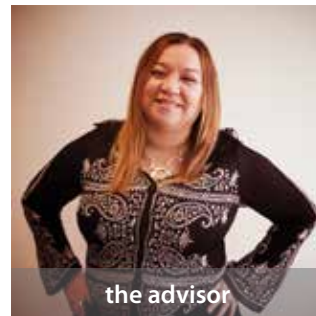
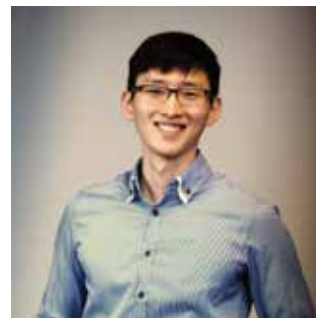
Steps to Success

Career guidance, internships, employment and graduate study



Hart Career Center

2015-16



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Steps to Success 2015-16

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ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

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Hart Career Center

Minor Myers, jr. Welcome Center, second floor



Hours — Monday–Friday 8:00 AM–4:30 PM
(4:00 PM summer)
Closed from Noon–1:00 PM

Drop-In Hours — Tuesdays 1:30–3:30 PM
Wednesdays 1:30–3:30 PM

Drop-In Hours are designed for quick questions and resume reviews; 5-15 minutes only. Please schedule an appointment for more extensive discussions, (309) 556-3071.

Hart Career Center Mission Statement

The Hart Career Center supports the University's goal to foster "creativity, critical thinking, effective communication, strength of character and a spirit of inquiry" and with its unique mission to prepare students for life-long career planning and decision-making.

In support of this mission, the Hart Career Center will:

- ▶ foster an environment of appropriate support and challenge which enables the development of self-identity, autonomy and responsibility,
- ▶ encourage the practical application of Illinois Wesleyan's liberal arts curriculum,
- ▶ and, provide quality career services in a fair and ethical manner.

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We're Here to Help!

Dear IWU Titan:

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at IWU! Career connections are vital to your future success. These connections begin at the start of your college career. Career center staff, university alumni, faculty, employers, parents, and your peers are some of those individuals with whom you can and will connect. What I would like to propose is that you do the following during your time at IWU: **Explore. Act. Achieve.** It will ensure your future success!

EXPLORE

Career Counseling – Unsure about what you want to study?

Unclear about what you can do with your major? We can help. Set up an appointment with one of our staff to explore the options available to you. Career assessments, informational interviews, and job shadowing experiences are just some of the activities that might help you in your decision making. Drop by our office on the second floor of the Minor Myers, jr. Welcome Center or call (309) 556-3071 to set up an appointment.

ACT

Internships – There are a variety of ways to explore the type of work you might like to pursue. Externships, research, summer employment. But internships are often what employers are seeking when evaluating candidates. Internships allow you to apply what you're learning in the classroom in "real world" settings. The Hart Career Center has a centralized internship program to connect students and employers. Over 70 percent of IWU students complete at least one internship during their time at Illinois Wesleyan, and over half of these students complete more than one. Feedback from employers indicates that one internship may not be enough in today's competitive job market.

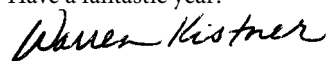
Graduate School – Every year a percentage of IWU graduates will continue their education. Just as you started your college search prior to completion of high school, you will do the same if you are considering a Master's, JD, PhD or other graduate/professional degree. The Hart Career Center staff can assist you in researching schools/programs, reviewing and critiquing essays, preparing for exams, and completing applications.

Job Search Assistance – Graduate school not in your plans at this time? The majority of our students will seek post-graduate employment. This is where those connections come in and your commitment to ACT plays a key role. By senior year we hope you have developed a network of contacts. The Hart Career Center also provides a number of services/events to connect students and employers. Job Fairs, on-campus recruitment, our Titan CareerLink online system, and LinkedIn.

ACHIEVE

There is no better feeling than receiving notification of admission to the graduate or professional school of your choice or receiving a job offer from an employer for whom you would love to work. For the class of 2014, 96 percent of those responding to our graduate survey indicated either employment or graduate school admission. How did this happen? Because they followed that simple recipe...**Explore. Act. Achieve.** It's simple in concept but requires that you take action. We look forward to working with you.

Have a fantastic year!



Warren Kistner

Director, Hart Career Center

So what can I do
with a major in...?

I need a resume —
where do I begin?

Where should I start
looking for an internship?

What is networking
anyway?

How can I decide if grad
school is for me?

How do I dress
for success?

When should I start
my job search?

**Got questions?
Visit the Career Center!**

Workshops and Career Events

Workshops are held frequently on a wide variety of topics. Watch for our “**For Your Future**” Friday Lunch & Learn series this year! Check the Events Calendar on the Hart Career Center website, www.iwu.edu/ccenter for a detailed schedule.

Workshop subjects typically include:

- Resume and Cover Letter Writing
- Career and Graduate School Planning
- Internships
- Interviewing Skills
- Networking with LinkedIn

We also regularly sponsor featured speakers and panels — including alumni, employer representatives, and career experts. Watch for posters and emails with event details throughout the year.

Career Events — The Hart Career Center sponsors and co-sponsors a number of special events throughout the year. Here are the top events for 2015-16, mark your calendar!

- **September 8** — **Titan Talks: Secrets of Career Success:**
7:00–9:00 p.m. at Hansen Student Center
- **September 11** — **ISU Accounting Career Fair:**
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at ISU Bone Student Center
- **September 16** — **ISU Internship Fair:**
4:00–7:00 p.m. at ISU Bone Student Center
- **September 28** — **IWU Internship Fair:**
4:00–6:00 p.m. at IWU Memorial Center



IWU students network with employers and learn about internship experiences at the IWU Internship Fair.

- **September 30** — **UIUC Graduate & Professional School Fair:**
12:00–4:00 p.m. at U of I Activities & Rec Center, Champaign
- **October 1** — **UIC Graduate & Professional School Fair:**
3:00–7:00 p.m. at UIC Forum, Chicago
- **October 5** — **Chicago/Idealist Graduate School Fair:**
Univ of Illinois, Chicago, 5:00–8:00 p.m.
UIC Forum, Chicago
- **October 8** — **IWU/ISU Fall Career Fair:**
4:00–7:00 p.m. at ISU Bone Student Center
- **October 14** — **ISCPA Fall Interview Day:**
8:45 a.m.–5:00 p.m. at
Ashton Place, Willowbrook (by invitation only)
- **November 11** — **IWU Nursing Career Fair:**
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at IWU Memorial Center
- **January 29** — **ISPCA CareerFest:**
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. (Business and Non-Profit)
and 1:00–5:00 p.m. (Education only) at
North Central College Rec Center, Naperville
- **February 16** — **ISU Internship Fair:**
4:00–7:00 p.m. at ISU Bone Student Center
- **February 26** — **ISU Education Career Fair:**
Times tba at ISU Bone Student Center
- **March 15** — **IWU/ISU Spring Career Fair:**
4:00–7:00 p.m. at ISU Bone Student Center

Visit the Hart Career Center website for a complete and up-to-date listing.



Progressive Impressions International is one of the businesses represented at the Internship Fair.

Four-Year Timeline for Career Success

First Year

- ▶ Meet with a career counselor to explore career options; take self-assessment tests to learn more about yourself. Identify the skills and strengths you enjoy using. Explore how your personality is important in choosing a career path.
- ▶ Develop an academic plan with guidance from a faculty advisor.
- ▶ Visit the Hart Career Center to discuss opportunities for practical experience on and off campus.
- ▶ Check out the Hart Career Center website: www.iwu.edu/ccenter, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter.
- ▶ Register with the Hart Career Center and complete your on-line profile through Titan CareerLink.
- ▶ Work through Focus, the Career Center's online career planning program.
- ▶ Explore ways of enhancing academics with co-curricular activities by visiting the Office of Student Activities. Check out their website at www.iwu.edu/activities/.
- ▶ Consider volunteer positions as a means of building professional experience. Visit www.iwu.edu/action/volunteering
- ▶ Study hard and keep your grades as high as possible.

Sophomore Year

- ▶ Review your academic plan with an advisor.
- ▶ Take advantage of Sophomore Week activities in the fall.
- ▶ If you didn't do so in your first year, declare a major(s). Consider the possibility of a minor(s).
- ▶ Speak with family friends and professionals about their careers. Spend a day on the job with a professional.
- ▶ Explore leadership opportunities in campus organizations.
- ▶ Attend Hart Career Center seminars and workshops on topics such as resume writing, interviewing strategies and internships.
- ▶ Participate in the Practice Interview Program to develop essential interviewing skills; check out Big Interview, the Career Center's online practice tool.
- ▶ Meet with a Hart Career Center staff member to develop a resume. Update your on-line profile through Titan CareerLink.
- ▶ Seek an internship that affords you professional work experience, personal contacts and potential for future employment. Attend the IWU Internship Fair on September 28.
- ▶ Continue to develop knowledge or skills that are in demand in your field of interest (e.g. computer, writing, foreign language).
- ▶ Explore study abroad opportunities; www.iwu.edu/studyabroad.

Junior Year

- ▶ Meet with your faculty advisor to confirm that academic requirements are being met.
- ▶ Focus on career objectives and update your resume. Be sure to have a Hart Career Center staff member review this for you. Attend Hart Career Center seminars and workshops.
- ▶ Pursue internship opportunities for the academic year, May Term and/or summer months. Attend the IWU Internship Fair and others to explore internship possibilities.
- ▶ Talk to professionals in your careers of interest (informational interviews) to learn more about career fields. The Hart Career Center can assist you in locating professionals working in a variety of career fields.
- ▶ Update your on-line profile through Titan CareerLink.
- ▶ Create a LinkedIn profile and begin forming a professional network.
- ▶ Consider the possibility of graduate and professional school. Review Hart Career Center graduate school resources.
- ▶ Consider taking the GRE, MCAT, LSAT or any admission test required to continue coursework at a graduate level. (You may elect to take certain exams in the fall of your senior year). Begin gathering information on graduate schools.
- ▶ Meet with a Hart Career Center staff member to review your progress and plan for graduate school or the job search process.
- ▶ Begin to gather information on organizations in your field.
- ▶ Participate in the Practice Interview Program to develop essential interviewing skills; work through Big Interview on the Career Center website.
- ▶ Continue to pursue leadership opportunities on campus.

Senior Year

- ▶ Review and participate in recruitment opportunities available through the Hart Career Center. Begin a targeted job search.
- ▶ Update your on-line profile and resume through Titan CareerLink. Draft necessary cover letters and have Hart Career Center staff review these for you.
- ▶ Explore internship opportunities for your senior year.
- ▶ Attend Hart Career Center workshops on applying to graduate school, job searching, preparing for job fairs and other topics.
- ▶ Meet with a Hart Career Center staff member to develop a job search strategy, review your resume and LinkedIn profile.
- ▶ Participate in job fairs throughout the year to explore job opportunities.
- ▶ Take any necessary graduate school admission tests (GRE, LSAT, GMAT). Have an advisor or Hart Career Center staff member review your essay. Apply to graduate programs.

Library Resources

Visit the Hart Career Center Resource Library.

Open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.).

Stop in anytime to browse. Look through hundreds of resources with information about:

- ▶ Selecting a **major/career**
- ▶ Finding an **internship**
- ▶ Preparing for the **job search**
- ▶ **Interviewing** successfully
- ▶ Applying to **Graduate/Professional School**
- ▶ Researching **companies**

Visit the Hart Career Center website at www.iwu.edu/ccenter to view our many online resources!



Allstate Insurance staff work closely with IWU students on a team project at the Hart Career Center Resource Library.

Need help preparing for an *interview*?

Want a *resume* that stands out?

How do you build your *network*?

CareerAdvisor

A free, customizable tool with the coaching and resources you need to help you get the job you want.

Visit pwc.com/careeradvisor to start today.



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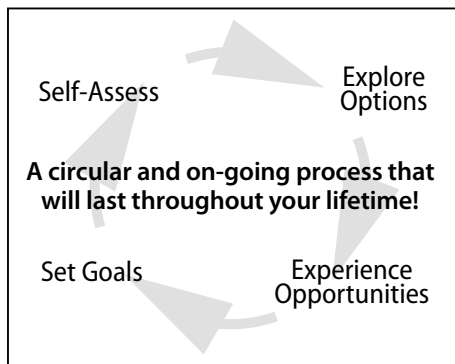


Find Your Passion

Career Planning

Career planning takes time and yet it is one of the most important activities you will engage in during your college years and throughout your life. You need to build in time beginning your first year as change is a common occurrence for students. Plan to visit the Hart Career Center and let our staff be your partners in the process.

Career Planning Process



Self-Assessment:

Start assessing your own career direction by doing a bit of self-reflection and taking a simple inventory of your values, skills and interests.

Your Values

- What principles guide your life?
- What do you feel strongly about?
- What do you respect in others?
- What are your most important life goals?

Your Interests

- What excites you? What activities are really enjoyable?
- What do you like to think, read or talk about?
- What topics peak your curiosity or your concern?
- What would you like to know more about?

Your Skills

- What things have you “always” been good at?
- What have you learned to do that has received praise?
- What can you do that is useful in many areas?

FOCUS 2 combines self-assessment, career and major exploration, decision making and action planning in one comprehensive product. Customized with Illinois Wesleyan University’s majors, students’ assessment results are matched to career options and majors/programs offered at IWU. FOCUS 2 guides students through a reliable career and education decision making model to help them select their majors at IWU, make informed career decisions and take action.



Career Guidance

Partner with the Career Center staff on each step of your journey. The most common statement made by students who visit the Hart Career Center is “Thank you! I feel so much better.”

Individual Career Advisement:

Experienced career counselors are available at the Hart Career Center to assist you in answering questions such as:

- ▶ What’s the best major for me?
- ▶ Should I double major? Is a minor helpful?
- ▶ What jobs are available for history, sociology, English, etc. majors?
- ▶ May I talk with or actually see what a forensic psychologist, ophthalmologist or actuary does?
- ▶ Should I consider graduate school?

Call (309) 556-3071 to schedule an appointment.

Career Assessments:

One approach to finding academic majors and possible career fields most compatible with your primary interests and strengths is through vocational and personality inventories. The Hart Career Center uses several assessment tools including the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the Strong Interest Inventory. Taking the time to complete and review these assessments may reassure you about your career thoughts or inspire you to look into new possibilities you had not previously considered. The results of the assessments are always reviewed with a counselor who can assist you in understanding how to best use this information.



Interns with the Illinois Justice Corps, Tia Sims '17, Jordan Staley '17 and Anna Moczynski '16 talk with supervisor Jon Legg.

Find Your Passion

Informational Interviews

Talking to a current professional is a great way to determine if a career field is for you. An informational interview is an information-gathering conversation between you and someone employed in the career field in which you are interested. It allows you to learn about a career field of interest, while also doing a reality check.

- ▶ Talk to professionals recommended by faculty members, Hart Career Center staff, friends from work, family, neighbors, teachers, church friends, etc.
- ▶ Set up the interview by phoning in advance and requesting 30 minutes of the person's time—and then stick to that!
- ▶ If someone has referred you, give the person's name and indicate why you are calling and that you are not asking for a job, but to get information about the type of work they do and how they got into that field.
- ▶ Be on time for the interview, dress professionally and take notes.
- ▶ Send a thank you note after the informational interview and consider enclosing a resume.

Possible questions to consider asking, select 6-8 questions to keep within 30 minutes

1. What interested you most about getting into this type of work?
2. How did you prepare yourself for this career? What classes or activities would you suggest to me?
3. Knowing what you know now, would you go into this career? Why or why not?
4. What do you like most and least about your job? What is most rewarding?
5. What skills or personal qualities are necessary in this career?
6. What do you do in a typical day and what type of people do you encounter?
7. How stressful is your job? What are the frustrations associated with your work?
8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of working in your field?
9. What, in your opinion, is the job outlook in this career area?
10. How much variety is connected with your work?
11. Can you recommend the names of other people or employers I can consult to find out more about your field? May I use your name to introduce myself?

Job Shadowing

During a typical job shadowing visit, you “shadow” an employee at work for a couple of hours, or sometimes several days. The visit provides a close-up look at the workplace and the day-to-day responsibilities of a professional in your field of interest. You have a chance to observe activities, ask questions, and consider the pros and cons of a profession or industry.

- ▶ Prepare for the job shadow visit by researching the employer and/or industry you will be observing.
- ▶ Work with the Hart Career Center, faculty members, your family, neighbors and friends to identify professionals in your field of interest that might be willing to allow a shadow experience.
- ▶ Prepare a number of questions that you would like to have answered during your visit.
- ▶ Contact the professional to arrange an appropriate time to visit; confirm the time/date/location.
- ▶ Dress professionally during the shadow experience and be respectful and confidential.
- ▶ Follow up the visit with a formal thank you note.

Approach Email Example

Dear Ms. Jones,

Greetings from Illinois Wesleyan! I am a junior English major with an interest in learning more about the field of public relations. Warren Kistner at the Hart Career Center gave me your contact information and suggested you might be a good resource for me.

Would it be possible for us to set up a 20 minute meeting to talk about your career path and any advice you might have for someone looking to break into the PR field? I am hoping to look for internships in the coming months and I am certain a conversation with you would be helpful as I begin to look for opportunities.

My contact information is included below. I realize you have a very busy professional life and I greatly appreciate your consideration of my request.

With best regards,
Mary Michaels
mmicha@iwu.edu
(309) 309-3090

Internships: Experience the Possibilities

Internships: Experience the Possibilities

Simply put, an internship is pre-professional work experience in your major field of study or career interest area.

Why intern?

Internships give you the opportunity to:

- ▶ Explore possibilities of future careers
- ▶ Gain valuable skills and career-related experience
- ▶ Apply classroom knowledge to real-world situations
- ▶ Establish professional contacts and begin networking
- ▶ *Possibly* earn money, academic credit or a future job offer

When should I intern?

Anytime! Students do internships over the summer and also during the academic year. In the fall and spring semester, interns will typically work 12-15 hours a week. Many interns will work full time during May Term and through the summer. Intern when you are ready; anytime from second semester of your first year to the summer after you graduate.

Where can I intern?

Anywhere! Many local organizations offer convenient access to internships in the Bloomington-Normal area. This is a perfect option during the fall and spring semesters. However, during the summers, students can intern in their hometowns, in other states and even abroad. IWU is also affiliated with academic-year internship programs in Chicago, Washington, D.C. and New York City. Visit the Hart Career Center or our website to learn more! To see where IWU students intern, visit <https://php.iwu.edu/internships>

When should I start looking for an internship?

Now! It's never too early to start searching for possibilities! The Hart Career Center receives internship listings continuously and most organizations accept applications on a rolling basis. Begin searching at least a semester before you'd like to intern. National deadlines for summer internships are quite early. Getting a head start will provide you with more options.

Does the Hart Career Center find an internship for me?

No! The Hart Career Center assists you, but students and employers choose each other. No employer is assigned an intern and no student is given an internship. The internship search parallels the job search.

Are interns paid?

Sometimes! Internships can be paid or unpaid; employers determine whether or not the internship is paid. Whether paid or not, the experience you receive is a valuable form of payment.

Can I receive academic credit for my internship?

Perhaps! Academic departments make this determination. It may

be possible to receive academic credit for an internship, but many students participate for experience only. Should you desire academic credit toward your degree, you'll need to work with a faculty supervisor to complete an Internship Learning Contract. Pick up this form at the Hart Career Center or download from our website. Once filled out, the form is turned in to the Hart Career Center.

Where do I find out about internships?

All over! A great place to start is at the IWU Hart Career Center. Hundreds of internship opportunities are available to you through the Hart Career Center's Internship Program. Our program is centralized, which means no matter what your area of study, the Hart Career Center can help you to find internship opportunities. We post all of the positions we hear about on our online database, Titan CareerLink.

- ▶ **Titan CareerLink** — allows you to review internship descriptions, apply electronically and, if an employer is visiting campus, sign up for an interview. You can access Titan CareerLink on campus, at your home or even when you study abroad! To review internship opportunities, access your Titan CareerLink account through the Hart Career Center website www.iwu.edu/cccenter. (See detailed instructions for Titan CareerLink on pages 39-40.)

Are there other places to look for internships?

You bet! Here are a few other search suggestions:

- ▶ **www.internships.com** and **www.looksharp.com** — large national internship databases.
- ▶ **www.iscpa.org** — The ISCPA (Illinois Small College Placement Association) website. ISCPA is a consortium of 20 small colleges in Illinois that work together to share resources.
- ▶ **www.indeed.com** and **www.simplyhired.com** — both of these are "spider sites" that pick up internship postings from company websites and other job search sites.
- ▶ **www.idealists.org** is a similar site for non-profit positions in the U.S. and abroad.
- ▶ **Visit company websites** if you have ideas for where you'd like to work. Look for their employment or college experience page for internship information.
- ▶ **Try a Google search** — you'll be amazed at what you'll find.
- ▶ **Network** — let your family, friends, professors and neighbors know what you're looking for! Personal references are still one of the best ways to land a position.
- ▶ **Attend an Internship Fair** — The annual IWU Internship Fair is September 28 in the Memorial Center. Additionally, ISU has several fairs in the fall and spring that IWU students may attend. Fairs provide an excellent opportunity for you to find out what types of internships are available and to begin making some professional connections.

Internships: Experience the Possibilities

- **Consider one of our affiliated programs** — Washington Semester, www.american.edu/washingtonsemester
Semester in Washington, scs.georgetown.edu/departments/19/semester-in-washington, ACM Chicago programs, www.acm.edu (Arts, Entrepreneurship and Urban Studies), New York Media Experience Program, www.marist.edu/nymep
- **Drop by the Hart Career Center** — our career resource library has extensive directories and internship resources.
- **Visit our website** — Find more online and career-specific resources at www.iwu.edu/ccenter.

Where have IWU students interned?

MANY places! Last year, over 511 students reported their internships to the Hart Career Center. They have contributed their talents through internships in organizations throughout the United States and abroad and have had some amazing experiences. Just a few of the recent internship sites include:

Advocate BroMenn Medical Center, Normal, IL
Arthur Gallagher & Co., Itasca, IL
BlackRock, Inc., London, UK
BP America, Warrenville, IL
Caterpillar, Inc., Peoria, IL
Community Cancer Center, Normal, IL
Country Financial, Bloomington, IL
Crime Victim Advocacy Center, St. Louis, MO
Deloitte, Chicago, IL & Hanoi, Vietnam
Ecology Action Center, Normal, IL
Ernst & Young, Chicago, IL & Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Springfield, IL
Goldman Sachs, New York, NY
Google, Los Angeles, CA
Great River Shakespeare Festival, Winona, MN
Habitat for Humanity, Bloomington, IL
Human Rights Campaign, Washington, DC
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Springfield, IL
International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Philippines
KPMG, Chicago; Hanoi, Viet Nam; Shenyang, China
McLean County State's Attorney, Bloomington, IL
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NBC Universal, Los Angeles, CA
Office of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Washington, DC & IL
OSF St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria, IL
PATH Crisis Center, Bloomington, IL
PricewaterhouseCoopers, Chicago, IL
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, Scotland
Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, IL
State Farm Insurance, Bloomington, IL
Technos College, Tokyo, Japan
U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Washington, DC
WJBC Radio, Bloomington, IL

How do I prepare to apply?

- 1) **Develop a polished and error-free resume.** Use this guide for assistance (see pages 12-13). The Hart Career Center staff would be happy to review your resume. Stop by during drop-in hours or schedule an appointment by calling (309) 556-3071.
- 2) **Write a Cover Letter if needed.** Many positions will ask for a letter of interest to introduce your resume (see page 18).
- 3) **Get ready for an interview.** If a company likes your resume, they will want to schedule an interview. Plan for success:
 - Research the organization and prepare questions to ask.
 - Practice answering typical interview questions (see page 34). Sign up to participate in the Hart Career Center's Practice Interview Program through Titan CareerLink. (see page 31).
 - Prepare to dress professionally on interview day.
- 4) **Follow up...follow up...follow up!**
 - If it's been one-two weeks since you applied or since the deadline passed, it's okay to follow up politely with a note or phone call inquiring about the status of your application.
 - Similarly, follow up an interview with a thank you note.
 - Once you receive an offer and decide to accept a position, it's essential to follow up with the organization to let them know your plans. Additionally, you need to contact employers to formally withdraw from any active searches when you have accepted a position (see page 30 for more guidelines).

After I've found an internship, what's next?

- If you're planning to receive academic credit for the internship, you'll need to visit with your faculty internship supervisor, fill out the Internship Learning Contract and turn it in to the Hart Career Center. The Hart Career Center will notify the Registrar to enroll you in the internship course for your department. Paperwork is due before the last day to add a class in a semester.
- If you are doing a non-credit internship, the Hart Career Center would still like to know about your position for our internship records and for employer contacts and evaluations. Turn in a simple Internship Report, which can be downloaded from the Hart Career Center website.
- Clarify expectations with your employer. Confirm start date, hours, job responsibilities, salary, dress, supervisor, etc. It's a great idea to put your agreement in writing.
- Make the most of your internship experience! Take initiative; observe and learn; be professional; find a mentor; communicate respectfully; be a team player; and have fun.

What if I still have questions or need assistance?

Contact Laurie Diekhoff, associate director for career engagement. Schedule an appointment by calling (309) 556-3071, or send by email to diekhoff@iwu.edu.

How I Spent My Summer Vacation Internship...



MIDLAND, TX – Educational Programs intern Lauren Kiesewetter '16 worked with alumnus Annie Tillmann '12 and the *Permian Monsters* exhibit at Midland County Public Libraries.



BERLIN, GERMANY – Elizabeth Sanders '16 served as a Communication & Education Intern at the Fulbright Kommission during her Study Abroad experience.



CHARLESTON, SC – Pre-Med student, Brendan Finnell '16 researched environmental contaminants in alligators during his summer research internship with the Medical University of S. Carolina.



NEW YORK, NY – Brigitta Jakob '17 spent her summer doing research and analysis projects for the American Indonesian Chamber of Commerce.



NASHVILLE, TN – Ally Daskalopoulos '18 stayed with her aunt, alumna Demetria Kalodimos '81 while interning for the Nashville District Attorney's office this summer. (shown here with Nashville Chief of Police)



WASHINGTON, D.C. – One of 22 interns selected for the Joint Program in Survey Methodology Junior Fellow program, Austin Aldag '16 interned at the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Create A Strong Resume

What is a resume?

A resume is a summary of your *personal, educational and employment experiences*. A resume should tell: *who you are, what you know, what you do well and what you want to do*. The purpose of the resume is to **obtain** an interview, to serve as a reference **during** the interview and to serve as a reminder **after** the interview.

Employers spend approximately 30 seconds reviewing each resume.

- ▶ Mistakes, poorly phrased descriptions, redundancy, etc. will be noticed even during a quick glance.
- ▶ Write in a concise, easy-to-read format, thus bullets, phrases and incomplete sentences are acceptable for this reason.
- ▶ Do not use personal pronouns such as “my” or “I.”
- ▶ Start each phrase with an action verb (page 14).

Always consult with a Hart Career Center staff member before distributing copies of your resume.

Starting Your Resume

- ▶ List all of your jobs, internships, volunteer experiences, athletic, and extra-curricular activities.
- ▶ Include any academic awards and leadership positions.
 - First and second-year students may include high school activities/experiences.
 - Juniors and seniors may *only* include college information.
- ▶ Group your list of experiences by their relevance to the purpose of your resume. Write bullet points describing your responsibilities, skills used and knowledge gained.
- ▶ Use blank Microsoft Word document to start. Avoid using a template. If you need help formatting visit the Career Center.
- ▶ Try to use key words and skills from the position description or your industry to describe your experience.
- ▶ Use action verbs and the appropriate verb tense. Use the present tense for current positions, and past tense for past positions.

Resume Appearance

- ▶ 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, white or ivory.
- ▶ .7–1 inch margins on all sides, font of at least 11 point.
- ▶ Use resume or professional paper available at office supply or copy shops.

Information to include

Heading

Name, contact information including email, a campus and/or permanent address, and cell phone.

Note: Be sure that your email is professional in nature. Create a professional voice mail, and take off any music, casual or humorous message.

Objective

Include what type of position you seek AND the skills you have to offer. Do **not** indicate what you hope to gain (i.e. to develop knowledge of the social service industry, improve skills, etc.).

Examples:

- ▶ Interested in joining ____ staff of a (company/agency/ school district) to apply strong analytical skills and detailed organizational abilities.
- ▶ To obtain a staff nurse position on a pediatric unit using clinical training and relationship building skills
- ▶ To secure a challenging opportunity in the area of customer service using solid communication and assertive sales skills
- ▶ To contribute dynamic interpersonal communication skills to a social service agency working with substance abuse prevention and recovery

Profile or Qualifications Summary (An alternative to the Career Objective)

In place of the objective, consider a profile — usually one to three sentences in length, this personal branding statement emphasizes your unique talents and experiences. Think about what sets you apart or what you are passionate about. What have you consistently been praised for? Use qualifications or key words in the position description if possible.

Examples:

- ▶ Bilingual with extensive work experience and dynamic liberal arts education. Seeking full-time position that will utilize strong analytical and critical thinking skills to reach creative business solutions...
- ▶ Expressive communicator and passionate learner with a diverse background in political science, public relations and non-profit work. Commended abilities in writing, research and leadership...
- ▶ Experience with a variety of topics in biology and medicine, coupled with a stable foundation in the liberal arts. Desire opportunity to use strong interpersonal skills in the healthcare field...

Education

Include name of school, location, date of graduation, degree, major, minor and, if applicable, areas of concentration. Include your cumulative GPA, for example: 3.2 (4.0) if competitive. Some students include a major GPA. Also include study abroad experience (program, location, semester). Do not include high school.

Create A Strong Resume

Employment Experience and/or Relevant Experience

- List in reverse chronological order (most recent first).
- Include part-time, summer, volunteer work, internships, student teaching and clinical experience.
- Under each listed experience, identify job title, name of employer, employer's city and state. Include the dates of employment and the responsibilities of each position using action verbs. Be sure to highlight accomplishments as well as responsibilities.
- Bold first item listed (typically job title or employer) in each experience.

Skills (Language, Computer, Laboratory, Clinical, Technical)

Highlight skills that set you apart or are needed for the position. Examples:

- Competent in conversational Spanish, proficient in written Spanish
- Experienced with lab techniques and procedures such as distillation, chromatography, gel electrophoresis and titration.
- Familiar with oscilloscopes, circuits and transducers.
- Programming skills in Visual Basic, C++ and Java. Proficient in Excel database design, MS Access, Web design and HTML.

Academic Projects/Research/Publications

Highlight significant course projects, semesters, publications or academic research. Discuss your role, outcomes, skills utilized or gained.

Activities/Honors/Leadership/Community Service

List academic honors, awards and scholarships received first, followed by involvement in campus or community organizations and leadership roles. May be one category or multiple.



Pat Palmer '87, Partner at VSA Partners, shared a presentation on the value of the Liberal Arts in job searching.

Top Pet Peeves from Employers

Spelling, grammar and punctuation mistakes

- PROOFREAD – use the Career Center, friends, and relatives to review your resume; don't rely on spell check

Sloppy disorganized resume format

- Consistent, easy-to-read format is essential

Variety of font styles and sizes

- Keep it simple with a professional font and **bold** items you want to pop

Paragraphs instead of bullets

- Bullet points with action verbs help to highlight your skills and experiences

ALL CAPS !!! Or tiny fonts

- Make it easy on the eyes; no smaller than 10 point font (12 or 11 preferred) and limit capitalizations to main headings

Distracting bullet points ❖ ∞ ⇨ * ☐

- A simple, professional bullet point is best; small circle or square

Listing dates first

- List employers or titles first in your experience section; dates should be last

Incorrect contact info

- Be sure your phone number and email are listed, and correct!

Unreturned emails or voicemails

- HUGE! Have space on your voicemail and check your voicemail and email daily when you are actively searching. Always return an employer's message, even if you are no longer interested in the position.

Action Verbs

Management Skills

Administered
Analyzed
Assigned
Attained
Chaired
Contracted
Consolidated
Coordinated
Delegated
Developed
Directed
Evaluated
Executed
Improved
Increased
Organized
Oversaw
Planned
Prioritized
Produced
Recommended
Reviewed
Scheduled
Strengthened
Supervised

Communication Skills

Addressed
Arbitrated
Arranged
Authored
Corresponded
Developed
Directed
Drafted
Edited
Enlisted
Formulated
Influenced
Interpreted
Lectured
Mediated
Moderated
Motivated
Negotiated
Persuaded
Promoted
Publicized
Reconciled
Recruited
Spoke
Translated
Wrote

Research Skills

Clarified
Collected
Criticized
Diagnosed
Evaluated
Examined
Extracted
Identified
Inspected
Interpreted
Interviewed
Investigated
Organized
Reviewed
Summarized
Surveyed
Systematized

Technical Skills

Assembled
Built
Calculated
Computed
Designed
Devised
Engineered
Fabricated
Maintained
Operated
Overhauled
Programmed
Remodeled
Repaired
Solved
Trained
Upgraded

Teaching Skills

Adapted
Advised
Clarified
Coached
Communicated
Coordinated
Developed
Enabled
Encouraged
Evaluated
Explained
Facilitated
Guided
Informed
Initiated
Instructed
Persuaded
Set goals
Stimulated

Financial Skills

Administered
Allocated
Analyzed
Appraised
Audited
Balanced
Budgeted
Calculated
Computed
Developed
Forecast
Managed
Marketed
Planned
Projected
Researched

Creative Skills

Acted
Conceptualized
Created
Designed
Developed
Directed
Established
Fashioned
Founded
Illustrated
Instituted
Integrated
Introduced
Invented
Originated
Performed
Planned
Revitalized
Shaped

Helping Skills

Assessed
Assisted
Clarified
Coached
Counseled
Demonstrated
Diagnosed
Educated
Expedited
Facilitated
Familiarized
Guided
Referred
Rehabilitated
Represented

Clerical or Detail Skills

Approved
Arranged
Catalogued
Classified
Collected
Compiled
Dispatched
Executed
Generated
Implemented
Inspected
Monitored
Operated
Organized
Prepared
Processed
Purchased
Recorded
Retrieved
Screened
Specified
Systematized
Tabulated
Validated

Analytical

Analyzed
Ascertained
Assessed
Compared
Computed
Conceptualized
Concluded
Critiqued
Deciphered
Determined
Devised
Diagnosed
Estimated
Evaluated
Examined
Forecasted
Formulated
Integrated
Investigated
Justified
Measured
Negotiated
Prescribed
Prioritized
Projected
Questioned
Rated
Recommended

Researched
Scrutinized
Studied
Substantiated
Synthesized
Validated
Verified

Teamwork

Assisted
Collaborated
Contributed
Cooperated
Mediated
Participated
Partnered

Problem solving

Aided
Alleviated
Ameliorated
Augmented
Counseled
Customized
Debugged
Eased
Elevated
Enlarged
Extended
Finalized
Fulfilled
Generated
Identified
Interceded
Invented
Lightened
Polished
Procured
Reconciled
Rectified
Refined
Reformed
Rehabilitated
Reinforced
Rejuvenated
Relieved
Remedied
Remodeled
Repaired
Restored
Retrieved
Revitalized
Revived
Settled
Solicited
Solved
Streamlined

Strengthened
Supplemented
Transformed

And more...

Acted
Activated
Added
Administered
Apportioned
Appraised
Approximated
Attained
Audited
Certified
Commissioned
Committed
Consented
Contracted
Disbursed
Dispatched
Displayed
Enlisted
Excelled
Executed
Exercised
Familiarized
Figured
Guaranteed
Indicated
Instituted
Involved
Issued
Licenses
Maintained
Operated
Performed
Prepared
Programmed
Realized related
Reserved
Reviewed
Satisfied
Screened
Secured
Served
Set
Smoothed
Sought
Specified
Submitted
Surveyed
Sustained
Traced
Transacted
Transmitted
Valued

Resume Examples

Joan B. Writer

jwriter@iwu.edu ~ 1212 Park St., Bloomington, IL 61701 ~ 773.334.2995

Profile: Motivated student-athlete with strong leadership and time management abilities. Excellent organizational, collaborative and communication skills. Creative individual with experience in publishing, editing and public relations.

Education

Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL
Bachelor of Arts, May 2017
Major: English Writing Minor: Anthropology
GPA: 3.84/4.00

Umbra Institute, Perugia, Italy
Study Abroad Experience
Spring 2015

Relevant Experience

Project Coordinator Intern — The Great Plains LIFE Foundation, Normal, IL Fall 2015-present

- Research, write and edit successful grant proposals to support the "Stay 4" Project
- Develop written materials including letters, newsletter articles and brochures for students and donors
- Assist in the planning of the "Successful Student Seminar" and the "20 Stars for LIFE" fundraising event

Staff Writer — IWU Office of Communications, Bloomington, IL Spring 2014-present

- Write and edit press releases and articles (in AP style) for the University website
- Research and conduct interviews for alumni biographies and guest speaker articles
- Proofread and copy-edit University newsletters, brochures and articles written by colleagues

Travel Writing Intern — Great Vacations Travel Agency, Florence, Italy Spring 2015

- Wrote, edited and published travel articles directed at students studying abroad
- Beta-tested and copy-edited new Globetrotters website

Sports Writer — The Argus (IWU Campus Newspaper), Bloomington, IL 2013-2014

- Researched and reported on campus activities and sporting events
- Wrote a weekly article for the sports section of the newspaper

Leadership Experience

Student Athlete Advisory Committee — IWU, Bloomington, IL Fall 2015-present

- Organize volunteer service activities for IWU athletes to benefit local community
- Assist with campus-wide Tommy's Award program to showcase exceptional student-athletes
- Serve as liaison between student athletes and university faculty and athletic staff

IWU Varsity Women's Soccer — Bloomington, IL

- Selected as Team Captain 2014, 2015 - assisted coaches with motivating and mentoring team athletes
- Balanced 25+ hour weekly practices, training, competition and travel schedule with academics and activities

Activities and Honors

Alumni Scholarship Recipient
Dean's List
Sigma Tau Delta, English Honor Society
Lambda Alpha, Anthropology Honor Society

Adams Hall President, 2013-2014
IWU Student Ambassador
Habitat for Humanity Volunteer

YOUNGER STUDENT

ystudent@iwu.edu
398.444.3211

Permanent Address
11 N. House St.
Chicago, IL 60606

Campus Address
111 E. University St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Objective

To contribute strong communication and organization skills to a summer internship in the field of child social services.

Education

Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL
Bachelor of Arts, expected May 2019
Major: Psychology Cumulative GPA: 3.5/4.0

Work Experience

Desk Aid, IWU Office of Residential Life, Bloomington, IL Fall 2015-Present

- Greet residents and campus visitors in a welcoming manner
- Answer questions in person and via phone, making information referrals as needed
- Complete assigned tasks efficiently and professionally

Camp Counselor, Camp Kissimee, Delevan, WI Summers 2014, 2015

- Successfully engaged youth ages 8-14 in social, educational and recreational activities
- Created and led group activities designed to strengthen teamwork and physical fitness
- Set appropriate behavioral limits as needed; communicated daily progress to parents
- Selected to mentor high school counselors-in-training

Host/Waiter, Hampton Restaurant, Oak Park, IL August 2013-June 2014

- Managed an area of ten tables, simultaneously taking orders and serving food to guests
- Maintained accurate financial transactions
- Balanced part-time employment and active extra-curricular involvement during school

Leadership

President, Senior Class, Walter Payton High School, Chicago, IL 2014-15

- Organized and facilitated social and philanthropic activities for class of 300 students
- Designated and oversaw committees that raised \$1,200 for class gift to school
- Led bi-monthly meetings of class executive board
- Served as liaison between students and school administration

Program Chair, African American Club, Walter Payton High School, Chicago, IL 2013-14

- Initiated and oversaw school-wide programming to promote cultural understanding
- Collaborated with the International Club on Culture Week activities and dance
- Co-created, printed, and distributed publicity materials to advertise Culture Week

Activities and Distinctions

Alumni Scholarship Recipient
Black Student Union Member
IWU Cross Country Team

National Honor Society
High School Cross Country, Captain (2014)
Best Buddies Program Volunteer

Resume Examples

Ben Smart

bsmart@iwu.edu ■ 502 E. Empire St., Bloomington, IL 61701 ■ 664-113-8776

Education

Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL Cumulative GPA: 3.75/4.0
Bachelor of Arts, expected May 2016 CPR and AED Certified, American Heart Association
Double Major: Biology (Pre-medicine) and Hispanic Studies

Research Experience

- DePaul University**, Chicago, IL Cell Biology Research Assistant Intern Summer 2015
- Performed cell proliferation and gene expression assays on tissue cultures
- Maintained efficient lab operations by restocking materials, calibrating instruments and cleaning equipment
- Contributed with research team to a paper of research findings, currently being reviewed for publication
- Illinois Wesleyan University**, Bloomington, IL Biology Research Assistant Fall 2014-Spring 2015
- Collaborated with faculty and a team of research students to investigate ratite eggshell pore morphology
- Operated scanning electrochemical microscopes and strengthened skills in SPSS and Excel
- Presented findings in oral presentation at John Wesley Powell Research Conference, Spring 2015

Medical Experience

- Global Medical Brigades**, International Service Organization IWU President Fall 2013-Spring 2015
- Facilitated the creation of a medical clinic in rural Honduras with team of 50 undergraduate students and multiple health professionals; traveled to Honduras in Summer 2014 and provided Spanish translation services
- Recruited and maintained professional communication with volunteer medical professionals
- Coordinated 6 fundraising activities that helped purchase medicine and supplies for Honduras clinic

Advocate BroMenn Medical Center

- Responded to patient call phone and answered informational calls on the unit
- Assisted medical staff in tending to babies in the nursery and patients in the department
- Gained greater understanding of the needs of new parents and newborns in a medical facility

Work Experience

- Illinois Wesleyan University**, Bloomington, IL General Biology Teaching Assistant Fall 2014-present
- Advise and assist students through experiments and lab activities; mentor students as needed
- Set up and clean up materials for lab activities to ensure clean and well-organized learning facility
- Self Employed**, Chicago area, IL USSF Soccer Referee Summers 2012-2014
- Received USSF certification; promoted, advertised and used skills as youth soccer referee in Chicago area
- Made quick, accurate decisions to provide fairness and a positive game environment for participants and fans
- Illinois Wesleyan University**, Bloomington, IL First Year Resident Assistant Fall 2013-Spring 2014
- Planned, initiated and budgeted for programs to help first year students adjust to college life
- Served as a resource, providing support, information and problem resolution for first year students

Activities and Honors

- Alumni Scholarship Recipient
- Dean's List
- Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society
- Alpha Lambda Delta First Year Honor Society
- National Society of Leadership and Success
- IWU Men's Soccer Team
- Titan Orientation Leader

Ima Teacher

1221 Center St., Bloomington, IL 61701
312-555-6666 — iteacher@iwu.edu

Objective: To apply clear communication and motivational skills to a secondary education teaching position in mathematics and to become involved in coaching and advising extra-curricular activities

Education:

Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL Double Major: Mathematics and
Bachelor of Arts, May 2016 Cumulative GPA: 3.45/4.0 Math GPA: 3.93/4.0 Secondary Education

Student Teaching Experience:

- Normal Community High School**, Normal, IL Fall 2015
- Completed 15 week teaching experience in culturally diverse classrooms, including 3 weeks of full-time teaching Geometry, Honor's Geometry, Algebra II
- Motivated students through a positive, active learning environment while using interactive instruction and cooperative learning
- Taught students with IEP's, working with resource teachers to meet students' needs
- Successfully engaged students from varied family, socio-economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds
- Incorporated SmartBoard, Geometer's Sketchpad, TI-Smartview, and graphing calculators
- Collaborated with a Professional Learning Community to improve students' performance in 5 state goals
- Conducted educational research on differential learning within the classroom
- Assisted in advising Student Council and Scholastic Bowl

Practical Experience:

- Normal West Community High School**, Normal, IL Spring 2015
- Completed over 50 hours of classroom experience including teaching five lessons
- Worked with cooperating teacher to plan lessons, grade assignments, and enter grades into Skyward
- Assisted individual students with homework, group activities, test/quiz preparation
- Bloomington Junior High School**, Bloomington, IL Fall 2013-Spring 2014
- Mentored/tutored two at-risk middle school students to improve their educational achievement and classroom behavior
- Served as a role model for under-performing students to encourage educational progress

Additional Experience:

- Teacher's Assistant**, IWU Mathematics Department, Bloomington, IL 2013-Present
- Tutor university students, grade homework and quizzes, enter grades into Microsoft Excel
- Independent Tutor**, Self-employed 2012-Present
- Tutor high school and university students in math ranging from pre-algebra to AP calculus
- Math Lab Coordinator**, IWU Mathematics Department, Bloomington, IL Fall 2013
- Organized student staff schedules, oversaw lab maintenance, addressed computer problems
- Communicated regularly with faculty members to ensure smooth functioning of lab
- Circulation Desk Student Staff**, IWU The Ames Library, Bloomington, IL 2013-2015
- Distributed and shelved books, provided general information to patrons

Honors and Leadership:

- Dean's List
- IL Education Association Scholarship Recipient
- Student Education Association
- DRL campus ministry
- Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity
- *Vice-President of Membership (Fall 2014)
- *Vice-President of Pledge Education (Spring 2013)
- *Pledge Class Vice-President (Fall 2013)

Resume Examples

International Student

1304 N. Main St. • Bloomington, IL 61701 • (309) 750-3951 • istudent@iwu.edu

EDUCATION

Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL

Bachelor of Arts; May 2016

Major: Financial Services

GPA: 3.4/4.0 Major GPA: 3.8/4.0

Minor: Computer Science

SUMMARY OF SKILLS

- Native speaker of Mandarin
- Fluent in English
- Proficient in Cantonese
- Python, SPSS, Java, R
- Pivot Tables, Excel Databases
- Windows/Mac OS/Linux

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Finance Intern, Community Cancer Center, Bloomington, IL

Fall 2015-Present

- Conduct cost analysis for medical technology using present and past data
- Evaluate loan options to find the most suitable option for the Center's building expansion project
- Work extensively in Excel to create accounting statements including budgets and balance sheets
- Assist in preparing the company for auditing

Teaching Assistant, IWU Accounting Department, Bloomington, IL

Fall 2014-Present

- Assist 80+ students in accounting lab with course material and writing weekly accounting reports
- Provide guidance using Capsim simulation software, simulating a real world business environment
- Improve the class performance, measured by Capsim's weekly comparison of financial statistics
- Participated in moving the class to an online platform to improve information flow and efficiency

Stock Analyst, IWU Portfolio Management Course, Bloomington, IL

Spring 2015

- Analyzed and monitored 6 out of the 23 blue-chip stocks in the Illinois Wesleyan University student-managed portfolio with a team
- Created and presented a \$54,783 buying proposal and a \$11,500 selling proposal to the client board

Laptop Technician and Cloud Server Manager, IWU, Bloomington, IL

Fall 2013-Fall 2014

- Troubleshoot and repaired student, faculty and staff computers
- Used strong technical skills and attention to detail to successfully deliver IT service to campus
- Improved the updating process for the anti-virus software by building UNIX bash scripts

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

APEX 2015 Allstate Competition, Bloomington and Chicago, IL

Spring 2015

- Collaborated on team of four to analyze an Allstate business problem of retaining young customers
- Developed an executive-ready presentation of findings and proposed solutions; presented to senior staff

Coursera.org, Web-based

Continuous

- Take online courses; participate in webinars related to the fields of finance and accounting

ACTIVITIES & HONORS

IWU Merit Scholarship

Dean's List

Upsilon Pi Epsilon, Computer Science Honor Society

Frisbee Club

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer

Senior Student

712A Titan Road, Bloomington IL 61701 • (309) 888-7201 • senior@iwu.edu

PROFILE: New professional with significant experience in conservation and sustainability seeks to continue environmental work in a professional setting. Assets include research, leadership, and organizational skills. Strong collaborator with the ability to take initiative and work independently.

EDUCATION:

Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL

Bachelor of Arts, December 2015

Double Major: Economics and Environmental Studies

GPA: 3.41/4.0 Honors: Omicron Delta Epsilon, Dean's List

Study Abroad Experience:

Al Akhawayn University, Morocco (Spring 2013)

American University of Sharjah, UAE (Fall 2014)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

Illinois Wesleyan University Economics Department, Bloomington, IL

Spring 2014-Fall 2015

Research Assistant

- Collected 225 surveys that elicited individuals' preferences for expansion plans to a public trail system in the Bloomington-Normal area
- Coded and analyzed data using Excel and SPSS; reviewed findings with department faculty

Illinois Wesleyan University Environmental Studies Department, Bloomington, IL

Fall 2015

Senior Project with The Nature Conservancy

- Researched current government conservation programs to determine success of constructed wetlands
- Worked with The Nature Conservancy to develop a survey for the Mackinaw Drinking Watersheds Outreach Program Committee
- Surveyed local farmers for pilot survey; interpreted data and presented results to committee members

IWU Sierra Student Coalition, Bloomington, IL

Water Committee Member

Spring 2014-Fall 2015

- Implemented a water sustainability initiative to help eliminate the sale of bottled water on campus
- Researched water sustainability programs on college campuses of a similar size to IWU
- Petitioned the university for the funding of hydration stations; managed the installation of two stations
- Encouraged the water sustainability practices on campus by targeting the freshmen orientation program
- Organized the purchase and distribution of 500 re-useable water bottles provided to the freshmen class

President

Spring 2014

- Promoted campus community and national environmental awareness to students, faculty and staff
- Evaluated campus recycling system showing a shortage in recycling bins. Presented results to Student Senate and was awarded \$2,000 funding for additional bins
- Coordinated bi-weekly trips of maintenance and restoration volunteers at Sugar Grove Nature Center, the largest prairie grove in Illinois
- Organized *Recyclingmania* by providing awareness about recycling on campus through educational games; collected 2,500 pounds of recycled materials over the ten-week period

IWU Alpha Phi Omega (Service Fraternity), Bloomington, IL

Treasurer

Fall 2013-Spring 2014

- Managed and reported chapter finances for a budget of \$6,500; applied for nonprofit status with IRS
- Collected and recorded all dues and fees from chapter members; processed fees for the national office

LANGUAGE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS:

Beginning Arabic

Proficient Microsoft Office skills (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Publisher), SPSS

Cover Letters

What is a cover letter?

It is a letter introducing your skills and experiences that accompanies a resume sent to prospective employers.

What is the key point to keep in mind when writing a cover letter?

To tailor each letter to the position to which you are applying. Tie your skills/experiences to the needs of the position and the organization.

What is the most common mistake with your cover letter?

Employers want to know what you can do for them — not what they can do for you! You need to think like the employer.

What does it mean to “think like the employer?”

Think about what information the employer wants to know about you. Imagine that your job is to fill this position. What skills and experiences do you think will be important? An employer will ask him/herself about you...

- 1) What has this person done in the past?



Account Executive Interns, Camden Weber '16 and Emily Diehl '17 spent the summer working at Progressive Impressions International.

- 2) Does this person have the skills to do the job available?
- 3) What has this person accomplished in previous experiences?
- 4) What kind of contributions can I expect in the future from this person?
- 5) Will this person fit in with the team I already have in place?
- 6) Why does this person want to work for our organization?

Being able to address these questions will likely require you to research the organization and be familiar with the position description and qualifications before writing your letter.

Can I use the same cover letter when submitting a resume to different organizations?

No, you should individualize each cover letter to the position and organization. **NOTE:** Cover letters are not required when you attend job fairs, on-campus interviews and some personal contacts.

When submitting a cover letter via email, attach it as a pdf or Word document; do not include it in the body of your email. Use the email to briefly introduce yourself, express your interest in the position and reference the attached documents (cover letter, resume).

What five tips will benefit a job seeker most when writing a cover letter?

- 1) Your cover letter is a writing sample. Employers look for clear, concise and persuasive writing with perfect grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- 2) Present yourself in the best light, but don't exaggerate or inflate your skills, experiences and activities.
- 3) Proofread, proofread, proofread! Ask someone with proofreading skills you trust to read over your cover letter. Take it to the Writing Center.
- 4) Demonstrate specific knowledge of the organization. Research the employer and reference something unique about the organization in your letter and why you want to work for them.
- 5) Focus on the skills and qualifications you bring to the position. Employers will invest in on-the-job training, if they can see you are able to communicate effectively; show leadership and teamwork skills; have personal traits, such as the ability to adapt to change, be responsible and take initiative. And you can't just state this, you must show you have skills by citing examples.

Cover Letter Preparation and Format

The recommended length of the cover letter is approximately 200 words and three to four paragraphs. Always limit the letter to one page and address your cover letter to a specific person if possible.

Cover Letter Template

Your Address
Your City, State, Zip Code
The Date

Employer Representative Name
Title
Organization Name
Street or P.O. Box Number
City, State, Zip Code

Dear Ms. (or Mr.) Representative Name:

- Paragraph 1* —————→ **Reveal your purpose for writing**, identifying the position for which you are applying, your source of information, and the name of someone familiar to the organization, if you were referred by them. Strong transition sentence to the next paragraph.
- Paragraph 2* —————→ **Discuss your knowledge of the organization.** Incorporate recent industry information and specific information about the position/organization.
- Paragraph 3* —————→ **Focus on what you can do for the company, school or organization.** Base this on your skills, education and experience without restating your resume. Feature two or three specifics from your past experience that might positively impress the employer. Write these qualifications in a bulleted section or sentence format.
- Paragraph 4* —————→ **Indicate what steps you will take from here**, e.g., calling to follow-up on the application process and provide your phone number. Show appreciation to the reader for the time and consideration given to your letter and resume.

Sincerely,

(signature)

Sarah Student

Enclosure

- ▶ Spell check and proofread your letter! Remember to sign it.
- ▶ Print the letter and resume on matching resume paper and mail in a matching envelope.
- ▶ If applying electronically, save as a pdf or word document and attach to brief email with resume.
- ▶ Keep track of the correspondence you mail or email and follow-up as you have indicated.

Example Cover Letters

200 S. Adelaide St.
Normal, IL 61761
November 6, 2015

Ms. Alyson Anders, Web Managing Editor
YES! Magazine
Positive Futures Network
284 Madrona Way NE, Ste. 116
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Dear Ms. Anders,

It is with great interest that I apply to be your next Online Reporting Intern. At Illinois Wesleyan University, I have spent the last two years working for the school's weekly newspaper, *The Argus*, and have developed a very strong passion for the world of journalism. Molly Eden, a past Chief Editor of *The Argus*, suggested that I apply for this position in hopes that I too could take advantage of the amazing opportunity that YES! Magazine has to offer. After researching your magazine, speaking with Molly and reviewing the qualifications of this position, I feel that I would make a great addition to your online staff.

As a sophomore in college, I have taken every writing/communications opportunity that has presented itself and I regularly collaborate with others for the newspaper and for the television station at Illinois Wesleyan. I dedicate many hours every week to researching, interviewing, editing, publishing, and writing, and my jobs at the newspaper and television station always have top priority. While I am a team player, I am also an extremely driven individual who will work tirelessly not only because I understand the importance of my job, but also because it is what I love to do.

YES! Magazine publishes content that is truly about the people. Fracking, solving world hunger, and the history of International Women's Day are topics that are interesting and relevant. I am passionate about finding and researching solutions to today's problems and giving the public information that is exciting and important. I feel that I will fit in well with a staff where having a sense of humor is essential, and I know that I will use all of my knowledge from working for *The Argus* and Titan TV to become a valued member of YES! Magazine.

Should you require additional information or have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (217) 891-6639 or msmith7@iwu.edu. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Monique Smith
Monique Smith

2222 Main Street
Bloomington, IL 61761
February 12, 2016

Deborah Veney
Vice President for Governmental Affairs
The Education Trust
1250 H. Street N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Veney,

Please accept my application for the Legislative Affairs Associate position at The Education Trust that was advertised recently in the *Opportunities in Public Affairs* newsletter. I am a senior at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois, with a major in Political Science and a minor in Educational Studies. My academic experiences combined with my passion for educational advocacy work and internship experience in legislative offices make me a strong match for this position.

In researching the work of The Education Trust, I was excited to learn about your mission to promote academic achievement at all levels and to close the inequality gaps in educational opportunity and achievement that exist in our country. As a current college student, I was especially interested in reading about your work on college affordability and the Access to Success Initiative. This position would be an ideal chance for me to be able to satisfy my interests in both education and government in one position, while contributing to the success of an organization with such an important educational agenda.

Over the last two years, I have had the unique opportunity to work with both U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Illinois State Representative Dan Brady in legislative internship positions. These opportunities gave me experience researching legislative proposals and issues, drafting correspondence to constituents, and preparing issue summary papers. I worked closely with the Legislative Aides in each office, and assisted with tracking pieces of legislation. During my time with Senator Durbin in Washington D.C., I was able to read and analyze papers and legislation relating to educational policy and learned a great deal about K-12 and higher education legislation and regulation along with gaining valuable exposure to the politics and landscape of Capitol Hill.

I look forward to returning to Washington, D.C. on a full-time basis after graduation in May and am enthusiastic about putting my outgoing, driven personality, strong writing and verbal communication skills and commitment to educational advocacy to use at The Education Trust. Should you require additional information, I can be reached at (309) 542-1111 or via email at kpeterson@iwu.edu. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Peterson
Kevin Peterson

Additional Job Search Correspondence

Job Search Correspondence

I want to apply for a position that I'm not sure is currently available? What should I do?

A letter of inquiry is sent when you would like to inquire about possible positions with an organization that may not have posted openings. The goal is to get your resume in their hands. Write with a clear focus on what you know about the organization and how your experience and qualifications match the work environment. Include your resume and ask for information about career opportunities and the application process. (See example inquiry letter on page 22.)

I know an alumna that works at the company I'm interested in. How can I connect with her?

You can write a networking letter to make contact with someone. The purpose is to introduce yourself and indicate a desire to arrange a meeting or phone call that would allow you to ask specific questions about the career field. You must not ask for a job in this letter or in the informational interview. Normally, a resume is not enclosed. You will want to make a connection between you and the reader in the first paragraph, e.g., alumnus of Illinois Wesleyan, or mutual acquaintance. Then state your purpose in the second paragraph and ask to meet at a mutually convenient time. In the final paragraph, indicate how you will follow up with them. (For more information, see section on informational interviews on page 8.)

Do I really need to write a thank you letter?

Yes! This is one of the most important tools that can set you apart from other job candidates. Candidates who send such a letter within 24 hours after the interview demonstrate clear

interest in the position and professional polish. Do individualize and send one to each person with whom you had contact.

Ask for a business card from them during an interview so that you are sure to spell their name correctly and use the proper title. Thank them for their time and interest in you. Be brief, but reemphasize your strongest qualifications as they relate to some specific component of the job requirements. In the final paragraph, reiterate your interest in the position and restate your appreciation. (See example thank you letter on page 22.)

What is an acceptance letter?

This is written confirmation of the terms of your employment as you understand them (salary, starting date, where and to whom you report, etc.). This letter is brief and to the point. End with a statement of appreciation for the confidence shown in you and your eagerness to join the team. (See example job offer acceptance letter on page 23.)

Do I have to send a letter if I decline a job offer?

Yes, it is important to send written confirmation if you decline an offer. A polite letter will leave a good impression and leave the door open to future employment opportunities with this same organization. Acknowledge the offer in the first paragraph and express appreciation for the time the employer spent with you. In the second paragraph, indicate that you have thoughtfully considered the offer and have decided not to accept it. In the closing paragraph, express appreciation for their consideration and interest. (See example on page 23.)



The Boys and Girls Club appreciated the mentoring talents of interns Bryce Dolan '16 and Will James '16 this summer.



Dean Carlson '17 honed his technical theatre skills behind the scenes as an intern at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival this summer.

Example Letters

109 E. University
Bloomington, IL 61701
October 6, 2015

Mark Smith, Director
Talent Acquisition
XYZ Investment Bank
27 Main Street
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Smith,

I would like to express my interest in an entry-level analyst position with XYZ Investment Bank. Through my job search and recent conversations with investment advisors, I have come to respect the professionalism that characterizes your firm and its employees. I am confident that the values and objectives of the XYZ team would highly complement my own strengths and enthusiasm. Please consider my application for your Investment Banking Analyst Program, or similar positions that require refined analytical and communication skills.

I was impressed to learn of XYZ Investment Bank's recent acquisition of Precision Group, a tactic which I see as an example of XYZ's commitment to achieving growth and success in the future. Innovative and exciting approaches such as this, coupled with a highly regarded Analyst Program, convinced me that XYZ is the ideal environment to begin my business career.

I will be graduating from Illinois Wesleyan University in May with a degree in Economics and Political Science. Evidence of my leadership and critical thinking skills can be seen in my responsibilities as analyst intern at Citibank, and my commitment to my academics. An educational background in government and business, combined with my internship experiences, has been excellent preparation for a career with your company.

Please review the enclosed resume and references and consider my application for your Investment Banking Analyst program. I would appreciate the opportunity to come to New York to meet with you and explore the company environment. I will call your office next week to discuss these possibilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Jones

Ron Jones

Example Letter of Inquiry

Example Thank You Letter

109 E. University
Bloomington, IL 61701
November 19, 2015

Mr. Jim Johnson
Vice President
ABC Company
1000 7th Street
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for the time you and your staff spent with me yesterday to discuss the Sales Representative position. This is exactly the type of opportunity I am seeking.

I am very impressed with what I learned about the ABC Company's six-month training program, especially the combination of classroom and on-the-job training. It seems more thorough than comparable programs in the consumer goods industry. Since we talked, I read about the success of your company's latest new product introduction. This just confirms what I have learned about ABC Company's reputation for marketing expertise.

As we discussed, I have two summers of sales experience. This has taught me the importance of goal setting, identifying the customer's needs, and organizing my time effectively. I am confident that my background will make me an asset to your company.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (309) 556-1111 or via email at jjones@iwu.edu. I look forward to hearing from you and hope I will have the opportunity to work for ABC Company.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jones
Jennifer Jones

Example Letters

Example Job Offer Acceptance Letter

201 E. Emerson St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
April 2, 2016

Amy Gray, DSW, LCSW
Social Work Director
Chicago's Center for Behavioral Health
3324 Halstead Street
Chicago, IL 60121

Dear Ms. Gray:

I am writing to formally accept your job offer and tell you once again how pleased I am to be coming to work at Chicago's Center for Behavioral Health. After learning more about the Center and its progressive services, I am excited about joining the organization and having the opportunity to contribute.

Per our conversation on April 1, 2016, I am accepting the psychology assistant position you have offered me. I understand that my responsibilities will include assisting with comprehensive intake assessments, and supporting individual and group therapy with the interdisciplinary team at an annual salary of \$33,000. As agreed, I will begin work on May 25, 2015.

I will be moving to Chicago and will call you with my new contact information. I look forward to receiving the contract and official position description and will sign the contract and return it promptly.

Again, thank you for this opportunity. I am excited about becoming a part of the CCBH team.

Sincerely,

David A. Oglesby
David A. Oglesby

Example Withdrawal from Job Search Letter

1234 College Ave.
Bloomington, IL 61701

March 1, 2016

Michael Clark, Recruiting Associate
Accurate Accounting Firm
567 Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Clark,

I want to express my sincere appreciation to you for including me in the interview process as you select candidates for your firm's Winter Audit Intern position. I have enjoyed meeting with members of your staff and have been impressed by the quality of your team and organization.

However, as I explained in our recent phone conversation, I respectfully withdraw from consideration for this position. I have decided to accept another internship offer that I believe more closely matches my skills and current career goals.

Thank you again for the opportunity to explore career options with Accurate Accounting Firm. I enjoyed meeting you and wish you and your staff well as you close out the recruiting season.

Sincerely,

David Harrison

David Harrison

References

1) Selecting References:

In selecting people to ask to serve as references for you, think about what those individuals know about you:

- **Faculty members** may know about your academic ability, productivity, and timeliness.
- **Past and present employers** usually know about such things as your reliability, initiative and your ability to work with others.
- **Advisors and coaches** may also be aware of information about you which could be relevant to a potential employer such as drive, leadership skills and work ethic.

Avoid selecting references who only know you in a social capacity.

2) Getting Permission:

Never give someone's name as a reference without that person's permission. Keep each of your references informed about your job search — provide them with a current resume and tell them names of persons and organizations to which you've given their names. Whenever possible, give them a copy of the job description for those positions for which you are applying and a copy of your resume.

3) Giving References to Employers:

- Create a separate reference page to list your references. Include full name, title, organization with which the person is affiliated, complete address, phone number and email address (if available). See Example Reference list below.
- Provide reference information when you are asked to provide it. If you reach the interview stage and have not been asked for reference information, you may want to offer it.

4) What Should References Say?

Many references are not sure what they are to say on the candidate's behalf. Encourage them to mention:

- the capacity in which they know/knew you
- the time frame of the relationship, and
- the positive characteristics you demonstrate
- how your skills and abilities match those of the position

Example Reference List

References for Jane Smith

jsmith@iwu.edu
(309) 829-0000

Dr. Marina Balina

Isaac Funk Professor and Professor of Russian Studies
Illinois Wesleyan University
P.O. Box 2900
Bloomington, IL 61702
(309) 556-3793
mbalina@iwu.edu

Dr. James Sikora

Professor of Sociology
Illinois Wesleyan University
P.O. Box 2900
Bloomington, IL 61702
(309) 556-3163
jsikora@iwu.edu

Ms. Michelle Jones

Human Resources Director
XYZ Company
111 Dover Lane Suite 200
St. Louis, MO 63121
(314) 935-2222
mjones@xyz.com

Mr. Tom Smith

Principal
ABC High School
1234 Main Street
My Town, IL 60666
(309) 556-3071
tsmith@abchighschool.org



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Whether you enjoy working outdoors or indoors, the GROWMARK System offers a variety of positions to match your preference and personality. You will find full-time and internship opportunities in the following areas:

- Accounting
- Energy
- Logistics
- Agronomy
- Grain
- Marketing

If you desire a position at a local FS cooperative or if you prefer beginning your career in the GROWMARK Corporate Office, your path will be full of opportunities, rewarding interaction, and personal growth!

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Bloomington Public Schools, School District 87 Teacher Application Process

- Do you build on the unique strengths of each student and celebrate each increment of growth?
- Do you love to learn? Do you keep yourself state of the art and bring creative, new ideas to the classroom?
- If you are a rare teacher with a mission to help all students succeed, you can make a difference in Bloomington, Illinois. Join our team and impact the future by touching diverse students' lives and helping them grow!

Visit our website at www.district87.org. Go to the **Employment** section to view current job openings and follow the application process instructions.

Bloomington Public Schools, School District 87

Phone: 309 827-6031

Fax: 309 827-5717 Website: www.district87.org

Portfolios

A portfolio is a cutting edge career management tool that illustrates your skills through tangible, objective and concrete evidence of your successes, qualifications and co-curricular activities. It can be used as a personal marketing tool that demonstrates your competitiveness as a job seeker and helps set you apart from other candidates. It provides direct documentation (class projects, writing samples, powerpoint programs) and third-party documentation (performance reviews, letters of reference) of your skills. It changes according to your needs and/or your audience.

Reflect on the skills that need to be showcased within your portfolio by reviewing job descriptions and career information. Many of the skills you have developed through classroom work and preparation are skills that employers desire when hiring new employees. These include communication, teamwork, leadership, problem solving, organization and planning, research, analysis, decision making and technical and scientific proficiency in your major.

Use a portfolio to:

- Apply for full-time positions or internships
- Apply for graduate programs, scholarships or grants
- Transition into a new career
- Seek a promotion or negotiate a pay raise
- Market your business
- Document professional development

A portfolio should be:

- Easy to carry and present
- Easy to add or modify information (a three-ring binder works well)
- Professional in appearance (use plastic sleeves to keep pages clean)
- Self-explanatory and well designed for ease in locating specific information (use tabs and captions)
- Easily customized to demonstrate requirements for a specific position

Consider an electronic portfolio or a personal website or CD



Students practice valuable networking skills with alumni at the "Career Connections" event co-sponsored by the Hart Career Center and the Council for IWU Women.

Consider including:

- Your **branding/mission statement** which sheds light on the guiding principles that drive you and give you purpose, your work ethic, organizational interests, management philosophy, etc. and listing goals can be included (ie: where you see yourself in five-years time)
- Your **skills, qualifications and abilities**, including a list of **accomplishments** highlighting your achievements in your career to date, samples of your work (e.g. Powerpoint presentations, reports, workshops you've developed, reports, publications, brochures, news clippings, etc.)
- **Testimonials, letters of recommendations** and **thank you** notes from clients, colleagues and supervisors are always nice to include; some people even include favorable job reviews/evaluations
- Photocopies of **awards, licenses, certificates, degrees** and **scholarships**
- Any **professional development** activities; for example, provide a listing of professional associations and conferences attended and any other professional activities
- A copy of your **current resume** plus a scannable/text-based resume in case one is required
- A **reference list** should also be included with the names of three to five people (including their full names, titles, addresses and phone/email), who are willing to speak about your strengths, abilities, and experience; at least one reference should be a current or former manager

Besides the traditional portfolio, you should also consider developing an online Web-based portfolio. Make sure your online presence/branding corresponds to your resume and your portfolio. The information should be similar online (ie: LinkedIn and any website you use for a portfolio) and back up what is in your resume.



This year, the Council for IWU Women will hold their annual Summit event February 25-27, 2016.

Writing Examples

Guidelines for Writing Examples

Why would an employer want to see your writing? It gives them another insight into what kind of work you would do for their company or institution. Through a writing sample, an employer can evaluate your writing skills and get an idea of your communication style. Here are some quick tips to follow in composing your writing sample for an employer!

- ▶ **Writing samples should be two to five pages in length.**

If you want to use a longer paper, cut out non-essential paragraphs, edit it so it still flows and add an explanation paragraph clarifying what the larger paper is about and how your sample fits into that larger scheme.

- ▶ **Stick to something that relates to the job for which you are applying, if possible.**

Employers want to know how you will write if you are placed in that job; thus, try to stick to that field. For example, for a job in journalism you may want to submit something written for the campus newspaper; for a job in research, an excerpt from a research paper would be more practical. Whatever you submit, try to stay away from “creative” writing samples, even in “creative” fields like television and advertising. Employers want to see a concise, succinct sample.

- ▶ **Make it perfect!**

Check and double-check for any typographical, spelling or grammar errors. It may help to read the sample out loud or have a friend or counselor look at it to get a different perspective. You should add a cover sheet with your name, address, phone number and the title of the work. Do not submit a sample that has comments from a professor or employer.

- ▶ **Do not submit something that has been heavily edited by someone else.**

Employers want to see your work, not someone else's! Also, stay away from group project papers, unless you clearly mark which sections you wrote and cross out sections that are not your work.

- ▶ **Do not put your sample in a binder.**

It just makes it a hassle for the employer to file and photocopy.

- ▶ **Only submit a writing sample upon request.**

If they don't ask, don't give! Keep one with you during interviews in case the employer does ask for it. If the situation permits, you may ask an employer what type of writing sample they would like to see.

Once you finish, you may want to consider visiting the IWU Writing Center or talking to a Hart Career Center staff member to review questions about your writing sample and to get a second opinion.

Pre-Employment Testing

Prior to employment, some organizations may require pre-employment testing.

This can include drug/alcohol screening, personality or skill inventories, agility/strength or honesty testing. Background screening might also be required which can include a credit check, criminal record screening, fingerprinting, driver's license check, academic credentials verification and reference checks. It might seem a bit overly thorough, but it is legal for employers to seek this information.

Drug Testing in the Employment Selection Process

Drug testing is becoming commonplace in the selection of personnel. While too expensive to be used in the pre-selection of all employees, candidates should expect that they might be asked to take a drug test. The seriousness of a positive test result should not be taken lightly, since having this on your record may be det-

rimonial to future employment consideration. Policies in companies differ. Retesting for false positive tests may be routine, and retesting 60 days, six months, or one year later may be allowed. Some companies refuse any retest and a rejection is permanent.

What Can You Do?

- ▶ Ask for reasons for rejection.
- ▶ Report any prescription drugs or medication taken before testing.
- ▶ Know the policy on retesting.
- ▶ Find out what type of laboratory testing is done to ensure fair and accurate procedures.
- ▶ Be aware that undue interest or reluctance to test may be interpreted negatively.

Social Media

SOCIAL MEDIA and Your FUTURE

Can what you post online help or hurt your professional future?

Rather than rely solely on resumes, interviews and references, employers, with increasing frequency, are turning to the Internet to gather information about the candidates they are considering.

In a recent study conducted by Jobvite, 94% of recruiters indicated that “they use or plan to use social media in their recruitment efforts” and 86% of these recruiters reported looking at the social profiles of candidates (on sites like LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter). Many indicated that they were influenced by what they learned, either positively or negatively. Protect yourself and your online image.

Technology has also expanded job searching venues. You can research and apply for internships and jobs all over the country. You have a wealth of employment information at your fingertips from the comfort of your own room. Simultaneously, the Internet has changed how companies and employers gather information about potential candidates.

“The client called and thanked me, personally.”

Career Opportunities at BDO.



BDO provides assurance, tax, financial advisory and consulting services to a wide range of publicly traded and privately held companies. We offer a sophisticated array of services and the global capabilities of the world's fifth largest accounting and consulting network, combined with the personal attention of experienced professionals.

Accountants and Consultants
mycareer.bdo.com

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Protect Yourself

Suggestions:

1. **“Google” yourself.** Put your name in quotes and see what you find. Search for web content *and* images.
2. **Review any information you have on social networking sites, blogs, online journals, etc.** What will reflect positively about you if/when an employer sees your profile, blog, personal website, etc?
3. **Be thoughtful and proactive.** Do not post information or pictures about yourself online that may suggest illegal actions, inappropriate partying or sexual behavior. Remember that pictures you or anyone else posts about you can be seen by anyone, without too much difficulty and hitting the ‘delete’ button does not ensure that the information is no longer available.
4. **Email impeccably.** Email is a very important part of your online image. Answer all emails in a timely and professional manner. Use proper grammar, spelling, capitalization and business etiquette at all times.
5. **Create a positive Internet presence.** Clean up what information currently exists about you, and review links you have on your profile. If you tweet or use an online journal or blog, consider the benefits of password-protecting, or limiting to a small circle rather than being completely open with it.
6. **Ask for help.** Feel free to consult with any of the staff at the Hart Career Center about your Internet presence!
7. **Join LinkedIn.** LinkedIn is a professional social media site that will allow you to create a positive, professional presence on the Internet.



Alejandra Salinas '16
spent the summer as a
Risk Assurance Intern at
PricewaterhouseCoopers
in Chicago.

Brand Yourself on LinkedIn: A Professional Networking Site

Who Uses LinkedIn?

Over 350 million professionals in over 200 countries. LinkedIn adds over two new users per second! More than 4 million companies have LinkedIn pages and executives from every Fortune 500 firm are members. Millions of students use LinkedIn and most college and university alumni groups are represented including Illinois Wesleyan University.

By using LinkedIn, every call is a “warm call,” not a “cold call.”

LinkedIn helps students to help themselves by:

1. Building a professional online presence
2. Connecting in a meaningful way with alumni and other “warm” contacts
3. Researching companies and career paths
4. Finding opportunities with organizations that don’t recruit on campus
5. Learning lifelong networking skills

The 5 Golden Rules of Student LinkedIn Profiles

1. Professional photo of you alone
2. Headline with area of study and/or career ambitions
3. Keyword-rich summary that includes type of positions you are seeking
4. Include volunteer activities, internships and extra-curriculars
5. Recommendations from professors, advisors, internship supervisors

Visit LinkedIn.com today to start your professional online profile and to begin to establish your professional network.



Illinois Heart and Lung interns Brittany Brady '15 and Jenny Prochotsky '16 with the Women's Health Night keynote speaker Kathrine Switzer.

Think you don't know anyone? Think again. Consider connecting to the following individuals...

- Alumni
- Hart Career Center Staff
- Parents and other relatives
- Friends — Peers and a few years older
- Internship managers and colleagues
- Former bosses
- Connections from volunteer involvement
- Professional association members

LinkedIn Networking Etiquette Tips for Students

- Use proper grammar and spelling — no txt msg speak!! LOL!! ☺
- Always customize LinkedIn connection emails to explain who you are and why you'd like to connect. (But do not ask directly for a job.)

Sara,

I am a junior at Illinois Wesleyan University. In reading your LinkedIn profile, I discovered that you graduated recently from Illinois Wesleyan and have had a number of international assignments. Your career path looks really exciting. Could we set up a time to discuss what it takes to be successful outside the U.S. and what I should be doing in school to prepare for working abroad? I would be grateful for any advice that you'd be willing to provide. Thank you for considering my request.

Yolanda Smith

- Respond to all connection requests and messages within one week.
- Help others!

See a Hart Career Center staff member if you need assistance in setting up your LinkedIn profile. Visit the LinkedIn Learning Center to learn more: university.linkedin.com/linkedin-for-students. Visit linkedin.com/studentjobs for listing of current internships and entry-level jobs. Check out IWU alumni profiles at linkedin.com/alumni.



Ethical and Professional Guidelines

Hart Career Center Guidelines for Internship and Job Searching

The Hart Career Center at Illinois Wesleyan University provides information, resources, and support as you explore and apply for internships and jobs. It is important that you conduct yourself in a *professional, ethical, and socially responsible manner*. The following guidelines are to inform and assist you in this process.

Honesty and Integrity

As a candidate, you must provide accurate information about yourself, skills and experiences as you pursue internships and jobs. You may not inflate or exaggerate your abilities.

Professional Conduct

As a candidate, you need to communicate in a professional manner, and to be courteous and respectful in your interactions with others, in writing, in person, via phone or email.

To that end, you need to:

- ▶ Respond to all calls and emails from employers in a timely manner, even if you have already accepted a position with another organization.
- ▶ Attend all interviews, practice or otherwise, that you have scheduled. If you cancel an interview less than two business days prior to the interview, understand that you will lose Titan CareerLink privileges.
- ▶ Be punctual, come prepared and dress appropriately for all career-related events.
- ▶ When you accept an offer, make a phone call to do so and follow up with an acceptance letter. (See sample on page 23.)
- ▶ Withdraw from all internship/job search activities once you have accepted an internship or job offer. You need to contact all organizations to inform them of your status. ***It is unacceptable to renege on an offer that you have verbally accepted.***
- ▶ To decline an offer and to cancel active applications, contact the employer by phone and write a follow up letter that can be sent via mail or email. (See sample on page 23.)
- ▶ Monitor online social networking sites, online pictures and blogs to ensure that information that is publicly available does not contain inappropriate or unprofessional information about you or your activities.

Consequences of Improper Behavior

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in:

- Removal from Titan CareerLink
- Suspension of all Hart Career Center services

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during on-campus interviews.

Interview Preparation

IWU Hart Career Center Practice Interview Program

A. What is the Practice Interview Program?

An opportunity for students to “practice” their interviewing skills. Professionals in the human resource field volunteer their time and expertise to interview IWU students in a “practice” session.

B. How do I sign-up?

Set up your Titan CareerLink account by visiting www.iwu.edu/ccenter. Upload your resume and follow the instructions to search for a practice interview that best fits your schedule.

C. How do I prepare for the practice interview?

Be familiar with your resume, and review interview questions located in this career guide.

D. How is the practice interview conducted?

The interviewer will spend approximately forty minutes with each student. The first thirty minutes will be the actual interview while the last ten minutes will be reserved for feedback from the interviewer. All practice interviews are held at the Hart Career Center.

E. How will I be evaluated?

Each student will be evaluated on a variety of factors including personal appearance, self-confidence, enthusiasm and ability to articulate their experiences. This interview may be videotaped so that you can review the interview yourself. The interviewer will give you feedback in the interview and complete an evaluation form that can be picked up the following day.

► *If you need to cancel your mock interview, you must do so by 4:00 p.m. two business days prior to the interview date. Otherwise you will not be allowed to participate in subsequent interviews. **Students who wish to have their revoked privileges reinstated must schedule an appointment with the director of the Hart Career Center.***

For additional information about the Practice Interview Program, contact Yolanda Juarez, event planning coordinator or Abby Reel, assistant director at (309) 556-3071.



Visit the Career Center website to check out our new online interview tool!

biginterview

Interviewing Success Stand above other applicants — Be prepared!

Step 1: Research the Company

Know the company or organization well! Use online resources on the Hart Career Center website, vault.com, glassdoor.com, jobhuntersbible.com/research, LinkedIn and Google news. If you can, talk with current employees. Find out:

- What are the organization's major products and services? Any new products or services?
- Who are the organization's clients or target market(s)?
- Who are the organization's competitors?
- What is the organization's relative position in the marketplace? (e.g. leader, #2, #5, etc.)
- What problems or issues is the organization facing?
- What are some of the organization's recent projects, successes, new accounts, etc.
- What is the company culture?
- What size is the organization? Annual sales? Areas of growth or decline?
- Is the company privately or publicly owned? Is it an independent organization or part of a larger conglomerate?
- It is also important to have an understanding of the industry, not just the company.

Step 2: Know Yourself

What skills and qualifications do you possess that the employer needs? What personal qualities and skills make you a strong candidate? Create an inventory of your skills and goals.

Major Skills:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| •Technology | •Communication | •Accounting |
| •Analytical/Skills | •Organization | •Management |
| •Marketing | •Finance | •Leadership |
| •Administration | •Sales | •Teaching |
| •Creativity | •Customer Service | •Helping |



Mike Stephens '07 and Melissa Scott '11 are back on campus recruiting accounting interns for CliftonLarsonAllen.

Interview Preparation

Step 3: Dress to Impress

First impressions matter! You want to be sure the image you are projecting with your attire and presentation allows an employer to see you in the professional role you are seeking.

Proper Interview Attire: Business Professional

Women

- Business suit with knee-length skirt or pants in dark color
- Conservative blouse or knit shirt – avoid low necklines or excessive frills
- Minimal, simple accessories
- Closed-toe shoes with low-medium heels and flesh-colored pantyhose

Men

- Matching suit in navy, black or grey solid or muted pinstripe
- Long-sleeve dress shirt in subtle color (ironed)
- Conservative tie that coordinates with jacket and shirt
- Polished dress shoes with socks that match your pant color

Checklist for All:

- ✓ Neatly trimmed, clean hair; Simple, classic styles are best
- ✓ Good fit is important – not too tight, or too short
- ✓ Remove extra earrings; keep other jewelry simple
- ✓ No gum, strong perfumes or aftershaves
- ✓ Always err on the conservative side
- ✓ Clean hands and nails; simple manicure if polished
- ✓ Cover tattoos & piercings if possible
- ✓ Carry a portfolio or leather bag/briefcase (avoid backpacks or purses)
- ✓ Turn phone off – or better, leave in car

Business Casual — Don't let the name fool you, while less casual than interview attire, business casual expectations are still for professional dress. Pants should be non-denim (khaki's or dress pants). Tops can be sweaters, button-down shirts or blouses, polos or knit tops. Blazers or sport coats are also an appropriate addition.

Step 4: After the Interview—Professional Follow-Up

Send each person with whom you interviewed a formal thank you letter within 24 hours (see example on page 22). Individualize each letter to the person. Include:

- ▶ why you are excited about working for this organization
- ▶ why you are a good candidate for this position
- ▶ additional information that wasn't covered in the interview that is relevant to the position
- ▶ thank them for the interview and for considering you

If you accept a position, it is a good idea to confirm you're acceptance in writing (see example on page 23).

Additionally, accepting a job offer ethically obligates you to cease job search efforts and to withdraw your candidacy at other organizations. A courteous phone call followed by a professional letter is most appropriate (see example on page 23).

Types of Interviews

Campus Recruiting Interviews

These job or internship interviews occur at the Hart Career Center and are offered by companies interested in recruiting IWU students. You may only have 30 minutes, so focus on problems that you solved or challenges you overcame during a past work experience or an internship. If the organization offers an information session the day prior to the interviews, **attend it** and dress business casual.

Be sure to adhere to your interview schedule. Arrive at the Hart Career Center approximately 10-15 minutes early to check-in for your appointment and to receive any additional instructions. **If you must cancel an on-campus interview appointment, you must do so at least two business days prior to the scheduled visit using the *Titan CareerLink* system. Failure to show up for a scheduled interview will result in your losing any further on-campus interviewing privileges.**

Second Interviews/Office Visits

The purpose of an office visit is to allow you to get a more detailed assessment of the employment opportunity, and for the employer to make a more in-depth evaluation of your personal qualities.

The second interview visit may include any of the following:

- ▶ You may be greeted by a company representative who will act as your host for the visit. This person may be an IWU graduate or someone working in the area.
- ▶ You will most likely meet with several key managers, including those responsible for making hiring decisions. Interviews may be one-on-one or panel/group interviews.
- ▶ An interview luncheon or dinner may be arranged. This is considered a prime opportunity for you and the employer to get to know more about each other outside the formal interview process. Though less formal, this is still part of the interview process. Regardless of the attitude of the participants, you are still under scrutiny. Avoid politics and other controversial issues. Be professional. Do not order alcohol, even if the interviewer does.

Telephone Interviews

This is typically a screening interview, though may replace a face-to-face interview if distance is an issue. Without having visual cues from the interviewer, it is hard to assess how your answers are being received. Listen for changes in tone and inflection. Smile as you speak so that your voice projects enthusiasm and interest. Your goal during the interview is to convince the interviewer that you're worth bringing into the office for an interview.

- Pick a quiet location where you can speak openly and without interruption. If you have call waiting, ignore it. If using a cell phone, be sure your battery is charged and reception is strong.
- Keep your resume, cover letter and the job description nearby for reference.

Interview Preparation

On-Campus Recruitment Interviews

The Hart Career Center aims to make recruiting easy for both employers and students through the on-campus recruitment program. Titan CareerLink is used to manage the program. To participate, students need to:

1. Register with Titan CareerLink. (See pages 38-39). Complete a profile and upload requested documents (e.g. resume, cover letter).
2. Ask the Registrar's Office to send an unofficial copy of your academic transcript to the Hart Career Center. A request card is available at both the Hart Career Center and Registrar's Office. Your transcript will be kept on file for the current semester and will be shared with employers that request it.
3. Review the calendar in Titan CareerLink to remain current on upcoming interviews and deadlines.
4. Follow the instructions for applying for jobs and selecting interview time slots as outlined in the Titan CareerLink section. Interview sign-ups may be on an **open** schedule (first come, first registered basis) or a **closed, pre-selected** schedule (by employer's invitation only). Check the system daily after the deadline for closed positions to see if you have been selected to interview.

Case Interviews

Companies that value analytical thinking and problem-solving skills may utilize case interviews as a way to evaluate a candidate's critical thought processes and poise under pressure. Management consulting and investment banking firms commonly use case interviews.

In a case interview, expect to be given a business situation, problem or challenge and asked for a resolution. You will be expected to ask a logical progression of questions to probe deeper and gain a better understanding of the question in order to gather information to arrive at a solution. The purpose of the interview is not necessarily to arrive at a single right answer, but instead for an employer to gain an understanding of how an applicant thinks and approaches problems. Interviewers will be looking at a candidate's numerical and reasoning skills; business and leadership development skills; and communication and presentation skills.

Before heading to a case interview, it is important to PRACTICE and research sample case interview questions. Log on to Vault.com through the Hart Career Center website to utilize their Case Interview guide with practice brainteasers and questions. Marc Cosentino's website, casequestions.com also has strong preparation information. His book, *Case in Point*, along with other books on case interviews, is available in the Hart Career Center resource library. Additionally, many companies have tips and examples on their websites (Bain & Co., Deloitte, McKinsey & Co.).

Behavior-Based Interviews

Many employers use a behavior-based interview approach based on the premise that past behavior (performance) predicts future behavior (performance). Clear and concise responses to behavioral questions that highlight your background and your strengths will set you apart.

The STAR method provides a logical approach to answering interview questions by using one of your past successes in responding to the question.

The four steps to the STAR method are:

1. **S Situation** Describe the situation you were in: general or specific
2. **T Task** What goal were you working toward?
3. **A Action** What action did YOU take? (focus on YOU, use I not WE)
4. **R Result** What was the result or outcome of your action?

To demonstrate that you possess a particular skill give the interviewer specific examples of *when, how and where you used that ability*, AND, *what was the positive result of what you did?* Did you help save money, increase efficiency, save time, increase sales, improve client relations or increase profits?

The following steps outline an effective way to prepare for behavior-based interviews...

- ▶ Analyze the type of positions for which you are applying and identify what skills are required.
- ▶ Analyze your own background. What skills do you have that relate to the job objective?
- ▶ Identify examples from your past experience that demonstrate these skills.
- ▶ Whenever possible, quantify your results. Numbers or specifics help to make your case.
- ▶ Be prepared to provide examples of when results did not turn out as you planned. What did you do then? What did you learn? How would you do things differently today?



Amy DeBoer '15 participates in a practice interview with Jeff Lockenvitz '84, principal of Washington Elementary School.

Sample Interview Questions

Behavioral Interview Questions

- ▶ How do you define leadership? Describe the most recent time when you demonstrated your leadership skills.
- ▶ Listening is a valuable tool. Describe a time when good listening skills helped you overcome a communication problem.
- ▶ Describe a situation in which you identified a problem and explain how you resolved it (root cause investigation, recommending a countermeasure, follow-up, etc.)
- ▶ Describe a time when you made a decision that was unpopular with the other members of your group. What was the end result?
- ▶ Give me an example of a complex process/situation you had to describe to someone. What specifically did you do to make sure the information was clear?
- ▶ What has been the most challenging written assignment you have had? What made it challenging?
- ▶ How do you determine if the work you do is a quality job? What are some ways that you have improved the quality of your own work?
- ▶ Give an example of a team decision in which you were involved in recently. What did you do to help the team reach the decision?
- ▶ Have you ever been in a group situation in which one of the members was unproductive or uncooperative? How did you handle it?
- ▶ Give an example of a time when you did more than what was required in your job.
- ▶ We all know that some problems just don't have solutions. Tell me about a problem you tried to solve but couldn't.
- ▶ Describe a situation that required you to handle multiple tasks at one time. What did you do?
- ▶ What is your procedure for keeping track of items that require your attention?
- ▶ We have all had times when we just couldn't complete everything on time. Describe when this has happened to you. What did you do?
- ▶ What has been one of the most difficult decisions you have had to make on the job? What facts did you consider? How long did it take you to decide?
- ▶ When (if ever) have you delayed making a decision to give more thought to the situation?

Additional Interview Questions

1. Spend five minutes telling me about yourself.
2. What are your strengths?
3. What are your weaknesses, and how are you handling them?
4. What are you looking for in a job?
5. How did you choose your academic major and why?
6. Do you plan to continue your education?

7. What benefits did you get out of your extracurricular activities?
8. How did your college career prepare you for this type of work?
9. Have you had previous employment in this field?
10. Do you prefer to work by yourself or with others?
11. What are your long-term goals?
12. What makes you the best candidate for this position?
13. What do you expect to be doing five years from now?
14. What is your greatest accomplishment?
15. Would you describe yourself as creative? Why?
16. What is your leadership style?
17. What is the most difficult decision you've ever made? How did you make it?
18. How do you think a friend (professor) would describe you?
19. How do you feel about relocation?
20. Why do you want to work for our company?
21. How do you work under pressure?
22. In what ways can you make a contribution to our company?
23. How do you feel about job-related travel?
24. What do you do with your leisure time?
25. What was the last book you read?
26. How did your internship help to prepare you for a career opportunity in this field?
27. Why should we hire you?

Questions to Ask the Interviewer

Yes, you need to ask questions to convey your interest!

1. What are the three top goals you've set for this position for the coming year?
2. What are the biggest challenges I'll face in this position?
3. To whom will I be reporting?
4. Can you describe the training program in greater detail?
5. How does this position fit in with the company's long-term plans?
6. What is the typical career path for someone in this job?
7. How will the success of the person in the position be measured?
8. What is your management philosophy?
9. What particular projects/initiatives is your department focusing on this year?
10. How would you describe your ideal employees?
11. How would you describe the culture here?
12. Are there reservations you have about my fit for this position? (This allows you the chance to address any doubts they may have.)
13. When do you anticipate making a hiring decision?



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Networking

net ■ work ■ ing
noun

1: the exchange of information or services among individuals, groups, or institutions; specifically: the cultivation of productive relationships for employment or business

Job search facts you need to know:

70-80% of all jobs are *never* advertised.

It's easier and less risky for an employer to hire a referral — a friend, relative or friend of a friend — than it is to hire blindly from a stack of applications.

Who you know can be just as important, or more important, than what you know.

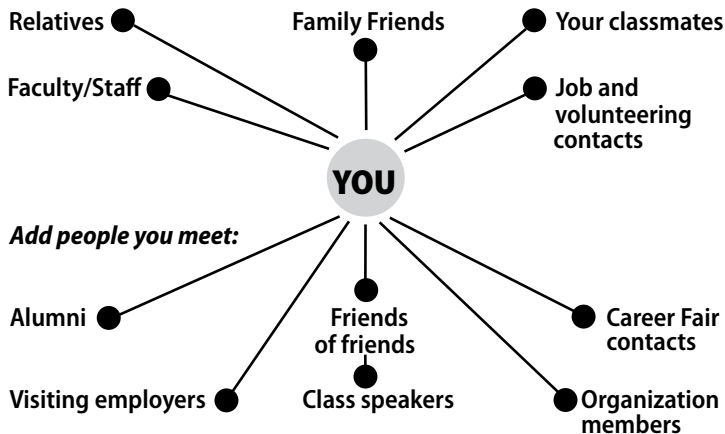
Over half of all job seekers find jobs with the help of leads from their acquaintances.

Networking is essential.

Utilizing your network and taking advantage of every opportunity to meet alumni and potential employers at campus and community events are *crucial* to job search success.

Build your network.

Start with people you know:



Don't wait until you need a network to develop one.
Get started today!

IWU Freeman Asia Internship Program

2015 was the first year of a new IWU internship program in Asia. Thanks to the generosity of the Freeman Foundation, 17 students were able to participate in internships in Asia over the summer and fall semester.



Internships took place in the Philippines, Hong Kong and Japan. Students were involved in rice research projects, youth development programs, community gardens, English language classes, and more! **Watch for information this fall on our 2016 program.**

Conducting An Effective Job Search

Steps To Success

A successful job search takes time. It is really a marketing campaign with you as the “product.” Only you can come up with an action plan that works in your situation, but here are some areas to think about.

1. Preparation

- Decide if geography, position or both will be the focus of your job search.

- Get your “tools” ready to go:

Resume — Focused on the position(s) for which you are applying.

Cover Letter — Personalize this letter and focus on what you can do for the organization. Have a draft ready that you can modify when applying for positions.

Work Samples — Depending on your field, you may need to prepare a portfolio with samples of your work.

Interview Skills — Polish your skills through the Hart Career Center’s Practice Interview Program and attendance at interviewing seminars.

Attire — Do you have your “interview suit?” If not, it’s time for a shopping trip!

2. Research

- Research employers of interest to you. The Hart Career Center library houses a wide variety of employer directories, company literature, and much more. You will also find computer workstations in which to take your job search online. Be sure to check vault.com, a comprehensive database to learn more about organizations in your field. Access this from the Hart Career Center website.
- If possible, talk with employers in your fields of interest. The Hart Career Center and LinkedIn can assist you in locating professionals in your field.
- Talk with current employees of organizations you are considering. These may be recent IWU alums.

3. Take Advantage of Hart Career Center Resources

- There are many sources available to assist you with your job search. A partial list includes...

Vacancy Bulletins — The Hart Career Center subscribes to a variety of online vacancy publications listing currently available positions in a wide range of career fields.

On-Campus Recruitment Program — Recruiters from local, regional and national organizations conduct individual job interviews during the fall and spring semesters.

Internet Job Sites — There are many. Be sure to check out a comprehensive list of links from the Hart Career Center website.

Job Fairs — Throughout the year, job fairs provide students

with the opportunity to meet with a variety of employers. See a list of events on page 38.

ISCPA Services — Illinois Wesleyan University is a member of the Illinois Small College Placement Association. Our membership in this consortium of 20 private colleges and universities throughout the state provides students with a variety of services.

Job and Internship Postings on www.iscpa.org.

ISCPA Fall Interview Day, Oct. 14, 2015 in Willowbrook, Ill. Interviews for students pre-selected by employers.

4. Be Proactive! Conduct a Targeted Job Search Campaign

In addition to the services provided by the Hart Career Center and the ISCPA, you will want to mail or email your cover letter and resume to employers that you identify as prospects. It is important to maintain accurate records and follow up accordingly.

5. Follow-up

- Immediately following an interview, preferably within 24 hours, send a thank you letter to the interviewer(s). In addition to thanking the employer, re-emphasize your interest in the position.
- Within two weeks of your initial correspondence, consider writing or calling to check on the status of your application.
- After accepting a position, notify other employers as a professional courtesy. This allows them to offer a position to another candidate.
- Notify the Hart Career Center when you have accepted employment. Seniors should complete a graduate survey.



Career Center student staff members, Karen Thul '15, Courtney Baird '15 and Emily Potosky '15 promoted Career Center services at the Dug Out.

Employment Fairs

Employment fairs provide a forum for employers to interact with students. You should attend fairs to learn more about career opportunities and employers, to make connections and practice your professional networking skills — oh, and maybe to get a lead on a potential job!

On the IWU campus, Illinois Wesleyan will host the following employment fairs:

- **September 28 — IWU Internship Fair**
4:00–6:00 p.m. at IWU Memorial Center
- **November 11 — IWU Nursing Career Fair**
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at
IWU Memorial Center

IWU/ISU Employment Fairs

Once again this year, IWU and ISU will be collaborating on the following **Internship** and **Employment Fairs**.

- **September 11 — ISU Accounting Career Fair**
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Bone Student Center
- **September 16 — ISU Internship Fair**
4:00–7:00 p.m. at ISU Bone Student Center
- **October 18 — IWU/ISU Fall Career Fair**
4:00–7:00 p.m. at ISU Bone Student Center
- **January 29 — ISCPA CareerFest**
times tba at North Central College, Naperville
- **February 16 — ISU Internship Fair**
4:00–7:00 p.m. at ISU Bone Student Center
- **February 26 — ISU Education Career Fair**
times tba at ISU Bone Student Center
- **March 15 — IWU/ISU Spring Career Fair**
4:00–7:00 p.m. at ISU Bone Student Center

Additional job fairs are held throughout the year in various locations. Visit the **Hart Career Center website** for details and to view an online workshop on *Tips for Job & Internship Fair Success*.

What to Wear?

Dress professionally. First impressions are important, so conservative attire is recommended. A leather portfolio or briefcase in which to carry copies of your resume is also recommended. Leave your backpack (and your cell phone) at home!

How to Prepare?

Review in advance the list of recruiters planning to attend (see links on the Career Center website). Plan your strategy for which recruiters you would like to visit. If possible, research the employers you plan to visit and prepare several questions to ask each recruiter.

Be prepared to sell yourself in a short period of time. You only have a few minutes to introduce yourself, demonstrate your knowledge of the employer, and spark the recruiter's interest in you. You might include major, graduation date, academic accomplishments, internship or other related experiences, special skills, leadership roles, and other relevant information. Be prepared to answer questions that recruiters may have for you.

Plan to arrive early and allow enough time to make valuable contacts. Talk to as many recruiters as possible, not just those listing positions in your field. As you meet recruiters, secure as much information as possible about the organization, and make sure to get the business cards or correct name and spelling for those individuals with whom you speak. Discuss how and when you should follow up with the organization.

Additional tips for success:

- Demonstrate confidence, interest and enthusiasm.
- Make eye contact and have a confident, firm handshake.
- Answer questions clearly and concisely.
- Ask questions that demonstrate knowledge of the organization.
- Dress and act professionally. Be polite at all times. The person you meet in the parking lot, hallway or restroom may be a recruiter you will see later that day.
- Be patient and respect other candidates' privacy when approaching the recruiter's table.
- Get the recruiter's business card, and discuss how and when you should follow up with the recruiter.

Follow up after the fair with thank you notes. These letters should thank the employer for the information received at the job fair, review your qualifications, and indicate your interest in an interview.



IWU students ready to network professionally at the 2015 ISCPA CareerFest job fair in Naperville.

Online Job Applications

Today's job seekers will need to use the Internet in their job search. There are thousands of websites that allow you to search for opportunities, post resumes and apply for jobs. Applicants can use these online job boards, or apply directly online at the company's website.

In some cases, applicants will need to build an employment profile on the site and many sites allow you to set up search agents to email you when new jobs are added to the system.

Tips for Online Application Success:

- ▶ Before applying through an online system, be sure to gather all the data you will need to have on-hand to complete the process (resume, cover letter, employment history details including dates, salaries and supervisors).
- ▶ Always verify the legitimacy of a company or recruiter before completing an online application.
- ▶ Save your resume as YourNameResume.doc or .pdf. Systems may allow you to upload your prepared resume or you might need to utilize an employer's resume builder.

- ▶ Attach a personalized cover letter if allowed.
- ▶ May need to enter reference information and/or take online employment tests.
- ▶ If asked for salary expectations, try "open" or "negotiable." If not possible use a range.
- ▶ Follow instructions. Reread and proofread carefully before hitting send. Typos are no more acceptable online than they are on paper.
- ▶ Prepare for technical glitches. Copy and save online application files or print before sending in case you need to re-enter information.
- ▶ Understand the risks of posting your resume in databases. If you post a resume on a search site, keep records of where it is posted and be sure to remove when search is completed.
- ▶ Follow up if possible with a contact at the organization; this is more difficult with online applications.
- ▶ Keep detailed records of when and where you apply. Save a copy of job descriptions or other company information.

Titan CareerLink

Titan CareerLink is a database of job and internship opportunities for Illinois Wesleyan University students and alumni. Access Titan CareerLink from the Hart Career Center Website or directly at <https://www.myinterfase.com/iwu/student>.

Register: click on [Click here to Register!](#) and follow the directions. **Your Username is your IWU email and your Password is your IWU Student ID number.**

- Complete all sections and click on the Register button. Required (*) fields are marked with an asterisk.
- Click on the Submit Profile button. [Submit Profile](#)

Update Your Profile

- Put your cursor over My Account and select My Profile.
- You will see sections containing Personal Information, Demographic Information, Skills, and Additional Information.
- Each section will have an [Edit] link. Click on this link or on the tab at the top of your profile to edit fields within the section.
- Carefully go through each section and complete all of the fields making sure to click on the Save button. Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*).

NOTE: The more detailed you fill out your profile, the better we will be able to assist you. Employers will be able to view your profile. Some information is not viewable, such as your street address.

Upload Your Documents

- Put your cursor over My Account and select My Documents.
- Click on the [Add] link next to Cover Letter or Resume(s)
- Click the Browse button to find your document.
- Select the correct document and name it.
- Click the Save button.

NOTE: When uploading more than one document, make sure your most generic resume is your default. Your default resume is the document that employers can view when accessing our system.

Searching for Jobs and Internships

- Put your cursor over Job Search and select Job Search.
- Fill in the search criteria to narrow down your job search OR just click the Search button (without entering any search criteria) to view all current jobs. TIP: On the Search Results page, if you click the [Email Me New Jobs] link, you can create a Job Agent which will email you new jobs every night!
- Click on the Job ID to see the specifics of the position and how to apply.

There are 2 types of jobs in our system — ones for which you are qualified ones for which you are not qualified.

Not Qualified? You will see a message and the reasons why you are not qualified to apply for that job posting. This may be because you have not updated your profile lately (i.e. your Major).

Qualified? Then if the employer is allowing you to submit your resume through the system, there will be a APPLY button at the top of the job posting. If they aren't, then read the HOW TO APPLY field to see how to apply directly to this employer.

Saving Jobs/My Favorites

- You can save jobs to your favorites by clicking on the Add to Favorites button in the job profile.
- You can also save jobs by clicking the star icon next to the job record in the search results.
- Click on My Favorites on the left navigation bar to see your favorite jobs. A yellow star will be displayed next to jobs you have saved, and a green star will appear next to jobs that you have saved and have submitted your resume to.

NOTE: You can email job records by clicking on the Email to a Friend icon in the job profile.

Signing up for an On Campus Interview

Under the Interview Schedules menu you have two options:

Sign Up for Interview Schedules I Qualify For (this is where you can *sign-up* on Interview Schedules):

- Put your cursor over Sign Up for Interview Schedules I Qualify For

- Click on the Schedule ID to see the schedule details.

VIEW All Upcoming Interviews (this is where you **VIEW** all upcoming Interview Schedules):

You will be able to see all current schedules in the system under this menu, but you cannot sign-up from here. Go to Sign Up for Interview Schedules I Qualify For to apply or sign-up on a schedule.

- Put your cursor over Schedules and select VIEW All Upcoming Schedules.
- Fill in the search criteria to narrow down your interview schedule search.
OR just click the Search button (without entering any search criteria) to view all current Interview Schedules).
- Click on the Schedule ID to see the schedule details.

Please note that if the Interview Schedule is a **Preselect Schedule**, then the employer will be prescreening applicants. You will be notified via email whether you are selected as Accepted, Alternate, or Not Accepted. Only Accepted and Alternate students will be able to sign-up for an interview with the employer.

If the Schedule is an **Open Schedule**, then you will immediately be able to sign-up for an interview, as long as, you meet all requirements on that schedule.

Searching for Career Events:

- Click on the Career Events menu.
- You will see a list of all current Career Events (Career Fairs, Info Sessions, etc.)
- To view details, employer's registered and/or RSVP, click on the Career Event's name.

Viewing Your Activity

NOTE: Not all events accept RSVPs or allow students to search the list of employers registered.

- Put your cursor over My Account and select My Activity.
- There are 4 types of activity that you can view:
 - *Referrals* – These are resume referrals that you've submitted to an employer's job, our office has submitted on your behalf, or an employer has downloaded your resume.
 - *Placements* – These are current job placements and details of those.
 - *Schedules* – The Schedule Activity shows any interviews, information sessions, or waiting lists for which you are signed up. You can also see any Preselection Activity that is still pending for you, under the Preselection Activity section.
 - *RSVPs* – These are the Career Events for which you are currently RSVPd.

Online Resources for Job Searchers

Visit the Hart Career Center website, to tap into some outstanding resources that we purchase for student and alumni use. <https://www.iwu.edu/ccenter/online-resources.html> Use iwustudent as User Name and titan as password to enter site.

Check out these resources:

Vault.com — Unique career content and services include carefully researched and continually updated information for more than 6,000 companies, 200 industries and 400 professions.

Going Global — Offers world-wide job openings, internship listings, industry profiles and country-specific career information. More than 30,000 pages of constantly-updated content is included on topics such as: work permit/visa regulations, resume writing guidelines and examples, employment trends, salary ranges, networking groups, cultural/interviewing advice, corporate profiles and worldwide job listings...plus much more!

Opportunities in Public Affairs — View hundreds of listings from senior level jobs in the Washington, D.C. area, including Capitol Hill Jobs, PR Jobs, and Jobs in Government Affairs, Legislation, and Journalism in Congressional Offices, the media, not-for-profits and corporations.

Graduate Jobs — An online bulletin for early career jobs. The subscriptions available are Liberal Arts, International, Writing/Editing/Communications, Art, Management & Business, and Performing Arts.

Environmental Career Opportunities — This site offers environmental job vacancies from all sectors of the job-market including not-for-profits, corporations, professional firms, institutions and Federal, state and local governments. This resource is updated every two weeks.

Internships USA — This is the largest internship site on the Web with more than 3,000 organizations offering internships for college and law students.

Additional Sites:

LinkedIn.com/student jobs — LinkedIn is one of the leading professional networking sites with over 300 million users and spanning 200 countries. Connect with professionals in a wide variety of fields. Apply to internships and entry level jobs on this LinkedIn site.

Usajobs.gov — USAJOBS is the official job site of the U.S. Federal Government. It's your one-stop source for Federal jobs and employment information. Visit gogovernment.org for information and tips on applying.

work.il.gov — Jobs for state of Illinois.

Indeed.com — This is a free and comprehensive job and internship search site. It includes positions from job sites, newspapers, associations and company career pages.

onedayonejob.com — Entry-level jobs and internships.

Internships.com and **LookSharp.com** — These sites are large internship and job databases with great nationwide positions.

Simplyhired.com — One of the biggest, smartest job search engines. They search so you don't have to!

Idealist.org — Great search site for not-for-profit jobs and internships in the U.S. and abroad.

Creativehotlist.com — Career resource for creative art, design and communications.

Internationaljobs.org — International Career employment weekly, also Ihipo.com.

Iasaedu.org/jobbank — Educational vacancies listed by the Illinois Association of School Administrators.

Socialservice.com — One place to start your social service job search.

Newscientistjobs.com — One place to start your job search in the sciences.

Dice.com — Technology job search site.

Teamworkonline.com — Jobs in sports.

Pathwaystoscience.org — Undergraduate and post graduate science research positions.



Drake Sorenson '16 was a Promotions and Marketing Intern for radio group Great Plains Media.

Evaluating Job Offers

The process of choosing a job begins long before you receive a job offer. The key to choosing the right job is knowing what's most important to you and determining which organization offers the most of what you're looking for in an employer. When deciding on an offer, you'll want to consider many

factors beyond the job and the salary. For example: Will you be comfortable in the work environment? Are the organization's values consistent with yours? Will this job meet both your immediate and long-term goals? Use this questionnaire as a guide as you gather information from potential employers:

Issues to Consider	It's Important to Understand	Ask Yourself
Organization Performance	The level of employment stability you can reasonably expect given the organization's market strength and the values of its management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this organization compare to others in the industry? • What is the future outlook for the industry? • What are the organization's greatest challenges? • Has the organization gone through recent changes, or is a future change likely?
Organization Values	The values that are important to the organization and how it conducts its business affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How committed is the organization to workforce diversity? • How prominent is the organization's commitment to its values and code of professional conduct? • How does the organization contribute to the community? • Is the organization known for promoting from within?
Nature of the Work	The substance and purpose of the job in the organization - this includes the value of your contribution, the level of personal accountability, assignment variability and challenge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will be the primary responsibilities of the job? • How well does this position fit your career interests? • How well will this job meet your need to be challenged? • How much variety will the job involve?
Work Environment	The atmosphere of the work environment, the quality of the facility and surrounding area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How comfortable will you be working in this organization? • What is the dress code?
Professional Development Opportunities	The resources available to broaden your knowledge and prepare you for more variable assignments. These may include in-house and external training, on-the-job coaching, tuition reimbursement, professional certification programs and job rotation for future opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of formal and on-the-job training will you receive? • How much coaching and mentoring can you expect? • What career growth opportunities are available? • What level of tuition reimbursement is provided? • How well are career paths documented? • How effective is the performance management program?
Work-Life Balance	The degree to which the organization's values, programs and practices accommodate your personal needs; these may include flexible work scheduling, work-at-home arrangements and child care assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many hours do people typically work? • How much travel does the job require? • How convenient is the location? • How much flexibility will you have in your work schedule? • How committed is the organization to providing technology support for employees who work at home or travel?
Base Pay	The regular stream of income you will receive, consistent with the value of the job in the marketplace and responsibilities on the job.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the near-term pay potential beyond the starting salary? • How often will pay be reviewed? • How much will individual development and performance influence your salary growth?
Variable Pay	The additional cash compensation you may receive for your individual contributions (bonuses, sales commissions, profit sharing and stock options).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of variable pay programs does the organization offer? • What is the variable pay expectation for this job?
Benefits	The level of protection against loss of income due to illness, death or your need for time off.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How soon does coverage begin? • How much will you pay for benefits? • How much time off will you have? • What types of retirement plans does the organization offer? • How does the organization support employee wellness? • What are the opportunities for stock options and other ownership?

Graduate School

Is Graduate School in Your Plans?

The decision to attend Graduate School is a difficult one!

IF:

- ▶ you have consulted with your faculty and/or the Hart Career Center staff,
- ▶ you have a specific area of study to pursue,
- ▶ it makes better professional sense to pursue an advanced degree right away, rather than work awhile first, AND
- ▶ you are a competitive graduate school candidate, and are ready for more school,

THEN:

- ▶ the following information can assist you in this process!

Book and Online Resources

The Hart Career Center has numerous books and online resources to assist you in your research for graduate programs, the application process, writing a personal statement/graduate essay and more. Some resources are for specific programs such as medical school, master's in business administration, law school, museum studies, psychology and many are more general resources with helpful information applicable to all applicants.

www.collegesource.org

A comprehensive graduate school directory to search for graduate and professional programs by degree level, location and other criteria. Access college catalogs online. Note: Must be using an on-campus computer to access this site.

www.gradschools.com

Worldwide graduate school directory

www.aamc.org

Medical school information (Assoc. of American Medical Colleges)

www.lsac.org

Law school information: choosing a school, the LSAT and more

The Hart Career Center also houses test information materials for the GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, OAT, DAT, PCAT and other graduate and professional admission exams.



State Farm Community Partnership Program interns spend the summer interning at both State Farm and a community nonprofit organization. Summer 2015 interns included:

Front: Adam Garcia '16, Tara Isenberg '17, Kim Mensah '16, Emily Shankar '16, Tia Patsavas '16

Back: Matthew Mardis '16, Brianna Piro '17, Landon Hoffman '16, Bryce Dolan '16, Chris Kincheloe '17

Graduate and Professional School Days

These are free and open to the public!

- ▶ **Wednesday, 9/30 Graduate and Professional School Fair**
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 12:00–4:00 p.m.
Activities & Rec Center, 201 E. Peabody Dr., Champaign
Visit Careercenter.illinois.edu for participating universities and programs
- ▶ **Thursday, 10/1 Graduate and Professional School Fair**
University of Illinois, Chicago, 3:00–7:00 p.m.
UIC Forum 725 W. Roosevelt, Chicago
Visit Chicagogradfair.ocs.uic.edu/ for participating universities and programs
- ▶ **Monday, 10/5 Idealist.org**
Make A Difference Graduate School Fair
University of Illinois, Chicago, 5:00–8:00 p.m.
UIC Forum 725 W. Roosevelt, Chicago
Visit Idealist.org for participating universities and programs

Begin the application process early!

It is time consuming to complete all of the forms, write the essays, obtain letters of recommendation and send transcripts.



Writing Intern Kristina Dehlin '16 and Graphic Design Intern Anissa Ortiz '16 lend their talents to the Multicultural Leadership Program.

Graduate School Timeline and Exams

Application deadlines may range from August (before your senior year) for early decision programs of medical schools to late spring or summer (after your senior year) for a few programs with rolling admissions. The majority of deadlines for the fall's entering class are between December and March.

The following is a timeline designed to provide some guidance as you navigate through this process. All the times indicated below are approximations. You should study deadlines for specific programs carefully since they may vary significantly depending on the institution to which you apply.

Junior Year — Fall and Spring

- Research areas of interest, institutions, and programs
- Talk to advisors and Hart Career Center staff about application requirements
- Register and prepare for appropriate graduate/professional school admission tests
- Investigate national scholarships
- If appropriate, obtain letters of recommendation

Junior Year — Summer

- Take required admission tests
- Review application materials
- Visit institutions of interest, if possible
- Write draft of your personal statement
- Check on application deadlines and rolling admissions policies
- For medical, dental, law school and some other programs, register for the national application or data assembly service most programs use

Senior Year — Fall

- Obtain letters of recommendation
- Take graduate/professional school admissions tests if needed
- If you are applying for financial aid, complete standardized forms. Financial aid deadlines often precede application deadlines.
- Meet with faculty members or Hart Career Center staff to review your application essay
- Send in completed applications

Senior Year — Spring

- Check with all institutions before the deadline to make sure your file is complete
- Visit institutions that accept you
- After making a decision, notify other schools that accepted you so that they may admit students on their waiting list
- Send thank-you notes to people who wrote your recommendation letters, informing them of your success

Graduate and Professional School Admission and Certification Exams 2014-2015

GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test)

This Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) is administered as a computer-adaptive test (CAT). Testing information can be found on the GMAT website at www.mba.com. You can also schedule a test date from this site. To access information by phone, call 800-717-GMAT (800-717-4628) or 952-681-3680.

GRE (Graduate Record Examination)

For the most up-to-date list of test centers, check the online registration system at ets.org/mygre or the test center list at www.ets.org/gre

Web Register online at ets.org/mygre using a credit card.

Phone Call Prometric® Candidate Services Call Center at 1-443-751-4820 or 1-800-GRE-Call (1-800-473-2255). Credit card or voucher number is required.

Dates for Subject Tests are listed below:

Test Date:	Registration received by:
September 19, 2015	August 19, 2015
October 24, 2015	September 18, 2015
April 16, 2016	March 11, 2016

MCAT (Medical College Admission Test)

www.aamc.org

Since January 2007, the MCAT has been entirely computerized. Students have multiple administration options throughout the year. The MCAT is delivered through hundreds of Thomson Prometric testing labs.

LSAT (Law School Admission Test)

www.lsac.org

Test Date:	Registration received by:
October 3, 2015	August 28, 2015
December 5, 2015	October 30, 2015
February 6, 2016	January 7, 2016

Other Exams

Registration information for other exams, including the DAT (Dental Admissions Test), OAT (Optometry Admission Test), AHPAT (Allied Health Profession Admission Test), PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test), and TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) are also available.

Puzzled About Your Future?



**Wondering how you fit in?
We'll help you put the pieces together.**

- Professional development
- Collaboration
- Networking opportunities
- Mentorships
- Improving communities



Make a difference.
Secure your future.



See yourself working here.

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